Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-090
Wednesday
10 May 1995

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FBIS-NES-95-090 *10 May 1995*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

League Head Seeks Halt to U.S. Embassy Relocation

MM0905132495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 May 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "'Abd-al-Majid Stresses Need To Confront Plan To Move U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, AL-HAYAH — Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has warned against the attempts by U.S. Senator Robert Dole to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv. He urged the Arab states "to make an urgent move with the U.S. Administration to stop the draft resolution Dole intends to submit to Congress."

'Abd-al-Majid told AL-HAYAH: "Jerusalem is the key to peace in the Middle East, and moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem conflicts with the Security Council resolutions on Jerusalem and the U.S pledges which former Secretary of State James Baker made to the Palestinians."

Counselor Tal'at Hamid, a spokesman for the League, cited Arab League Council Resolution No. 4328, which stipulated the severance of diplomatic relations with any state that moves its embassy to Jerusalem or recognizes it as "Israel's capital." [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

Brotherhood Proclaims Position on Major Issues

NC0705114995 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 May 95 p 6

["Statement to the Public from the Muslim Brotherhood;" place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] One of the most serious characteristics of this historic era, when the paths of various civilizations are converging, is the confused intermingling of different values, the entanglement of ideas, and the proliferation of distorted impressions by one human community about the others. The international media have played a very serious and harmful role in creating and nurturing this confusion.

In the midst of this confusion, stray poison arrows have hit the Muslims, portraying them as primitive, barbaric nations devoid of human feeling, sober reason, and practical experience of progress and development. They have been depicted as people who deny others the right to life, liberty, and the freedom to have a different opinion. This situation has reached the point where the whole world has almost lost faith in everything Islamic and in every Muslim individual. It is only honest for us—all of us—to admit that some of the responsibility for this unjust misunderstanding falls on the shoulders of the Muslims themselves because of the ideas and views put forth by some of us and their actions, which justify this negative impression, foster legitimate and not so legitimate fears, and attribute to Islam—amid all this confusion—matters which do not have their roots in Islam, its principles, teachings, scriptural texts, noble values, or sublime designs.

The Muslim Brothers have decided that they have an obligation to others, and also to themselves, to declare loudly, publicly, and firmly their clear positions on a number of major issues that are currently being debated among the various civilizations. Last year the Muslim Brothers issued statements specifying their frank positions on the issues of shura [consultation over matters of state], political pluralism, and women's rights. We have learned that these statements were well received by fair-minded people who seek the truth and who are happy to see all people agree on matters of goodness, justice, and righteousness. Nevertheless, attempts continue to cast doubts on Islam, intentionally misunderstand it, and fabricate false rumors about it with the aim of harming the tide of Islamic civilization in its totality. In response to those who fight against Islam and insist on pushing it out of the way, we will again clearly proclaim our position on the major issues that preoccupy our nation and the people around us.

The First Issue: the General Stance Regarding All People, Muslims, and non-Muslims

We will state right at the beginning: Our position on these issues and other issues is not tentative, nor is it optional and designed to win approval. It is a position attributed to Islam, committed to its principles, and proceeding from its textual sources, notably the Book of God, may He be Exalted, and the verified traditions of his prophet, may God's peace and prayers be with him. The Muslim Brothers believe that all people are bearers of goodness and qualified to be honest and trustworthy on the path of righteousness. The Muslim Brothers do not make it their business to declare anyone a nonbeliever. They accept the declared positions of people as being their real positions. They do not advocate declaring any Muslim a nonbeliever no matter how disobedient to religion he is, for knowledge of people's hearts is the jurisdiction of Merciful God. It is He who rewards people for their virtue and takes them to account for their actions.

We, the Muslim Brothers, constantly declare: We are advocates, not judges. We do not claim, even for one hour in an entire age, that we should force anyone to change his beliefs or his religious persuasion. We repeat

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God Almighty's words: "Let there be no compulsion in religion."

Our position regarding our Christian brothers in Egypt and the Arab world is clear, long-established, and well-known. They have the same rights and obligations that we have, are our partners in the homeland and our brothers in the long national struggle. They enjoy full citizenship rights, moral and material, civic and political. It is an Islamic obligation to be kind to them and cooperate with them. No Muslim may hold this obligation too lightly or be negligent in implementing its rules. We disavow anyone who declares otherwise and renounce his actions and declarations.

World politicians and thinkers at present take as their principles pluralism and the need to accept different views and ways of thinking and working. Ever since the Prophet Muhammad was inspired by the word of God, Islam has considered differences among people as a universal and human reality. It established its political, social, and cultural system on the basis of differences and diversity: Mankind! We created you from a single (pair), a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other. [Koranic verse] In Islam, plurality requires recognition of others and the mental preparedness to learn from others whatever they may have that is good, true, and useful. Wisdom is the goal of a believer, and when he finds it he is more entitled to it than any one else. Therefore, those who portray Islam and the Muslims as a biased group shut behind a curtain isolated from the world and prevented from exchanges with other peoples do them the greatest injustice.

The Muslim Brothers emphasize anew their commitment to this correct and sober Islamic view. They remind their followers and supporters that every one of them must be a true symbol of this line in whatever he says or does; they encourage followers to show affection and friendship and to open their hearts and minds to everyone. They must not be arrogant toward anyone, or brag to anyone, or lose patience with anyone. They should be open to everyone and to show goodness, amity, and peace of mind and cherish peace in word and deed.

The Second Issue: The Issue of Religion And Politics

The Islamic course to which the Muslim Brothers are committed, is that ruling the people with justice, righteousness, and compassion is part of Islam's mission and following Islamic rites is one of its divine duties. In Islam's view, rulers are just human beings and have no religious authority through divine right. In an Islamic society, the regime is considered to be legitimate if it is founded on pleasing the people, is their choice, and allows them to have a say in public affairs and to participate in decisionmaking. The people can then work out any systems, formulas, and methods to use this principle as it suits their lives. These systems must change as times, places, and situations change. Since shura has a special significance in Islam, it substantially agrees with the democratic system which places decisionmaking in the hands of the majority without denying the right of minorities to express their views and stances and to defend these views. Therefore, the Muslim Brothers believe that an organized political opposition provides protection against the despotism and tyranny of the majority. "Nay, but man doth transgress all bounds, in that he looketh upon himself as self-sufficient." [Koranic verse]. Thus, an organized political opposition will be part of the political structure and not oppose it or pose a threat to its stability and unity. The elections will be sound and held in total freedom and integrity, allowing all forces to enjoy real guarantees of society's security and stability. They will protect the nation from any faction that may rebel against the regime and try to use political action to shake social security and stability. These are two indispensable conditions for guiding the nation's effort toward construction, increasing production and realizing development.

The Third Issue: The Issue of Peaceful Action, Rejection of Violence, and Denunciation of Terrorism

The Muslim Brotherhood has declared dozens of times in the past few years that they engage in political action while remaining committed to legal methods and peaceful means alone and being armed with their right to honest and free speech. They seek to contribute generously to all fields of social action and believe that the nation's conscience and the consciousness of its sons will ultimately serve as a fair arbiter among the ideological and political trends competing honestly under the law and constitution. Therefore, the Muslim Brothers reiterate their rejection of violent means, compulsion, and all forms of coupist actions which would shatter the nation's unity and which could provide its advocates with an opportunity to sidestep the political and social realities, but never the opportunity to agree with the free will of the nation's masses. Such an act would cause a huge crack in the wall of political stability and would be an unacceptable attack on the genuine legitimacy of society.

If the atmosphere of repression, concern, and unrest which has gripped the nation has involved a group of its sons in terrorist activities against innocent people,

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shattered the security in the country, and threatened its economic and political progress, the Muslim Brothers announce unhesitatingly and unreservedly that they are innocent of all forms and sources of violence. They condemn all forms and sources of terrorism and declare that those who are unlawfully killing or abetting such killings are partners in the crime and guilty of a sin. They are must firmly and speedily return to justice. The true Muslim is a person from whose tongue and hand other people are safe. Let them remember, amid all the things they are involved in, the advice of the Prophet, God's peace and blessings be upon him, in his sermon during his last pilgrimage "O people, your blood, property, and honor are sacred to you until the Day of Judgment, as is the sacredness of this day, this year, in this your country." [Koranic verse] There are those who deliberately shuffle the cards and accuse the Muslim Brothers unjustly of participation in this violence and involvement in this terrorism, using the argument that the Muslim Brothers persist in asking the government not to counter violence with more violence and to abide by the stipulations of the law and judiciary. They also argue that the Brothers constantly ask the government to study and handle the phenomenon of violence by taking into consideration all the causes and circumstances of this violence and not to be satisfied with security confrontations. The impeccable record of the Brothers refutes such allegations as clear as day. This record is revealed through the many years during which the Brotherhood participated in the parliamentary councils and the legislative elections; at other times the Brothers were prevented from participating. However, throughout, they continued to adhere to the stipulations of the Constitution and the law, keenly maintaining their free and honest word as their weapon—and they have no other—with which they struggle for the sake of God without fear of blame.

The Fourth Issue: The Human Rights Issue

It is a tragic paradox that the Muslims should be accused of slighting, threatening, and oppressing human rights in an age when the Muslim people, governments, groups, and individuals are being subjected to unprecedented aggression against their simplest rights and most basic freedoms. At the same time, they see the governments and politicians of the big powers of the world applying double standards and using two different scales to weigh situations and stances. One pair of scales is just and fair and adheres to the human rights charters; they are applied to things having to do with non-Muslims. The other pair is unfair and partial and justifies aggression when dealing with one of the Muslim nations or one of their governments. What is the news of Bosnia-Herzegovina these days? And the Chechnya crisis is very distant from us. Perhaps it would be repetitive to remind ourselves and the world that Islam, as we know it, has been and continues to be the only intellectual and political program that honors man and humanity, rising above differences in language, color, and race. Ever since it came into existence, Islam has protected people's lives, sanctities, property, and honor and considered violating them a sin. Islam has deemed it a religious duty and an Islamic rite to fully follow these laws. Violations by others do not absolve the Muslims from observing them: "And let not the hatred of others for you make you swerve to wrong and depart from justice. Be just: That is next to piety:" [Koranic verse]. If some Muslims here or there, every now and then, either now or in the past have not paid appropriate attention to this Islamic duty and failed to perform it toward the people, then the behavior of these people should not be held against Islam or attributed to it. We have learned to identify men through justice, not justice through men. However, here we have to tell ourselves, all our sympathizers, and the world around us: We are at the forefront of those who call for respecting human rights and we want to secure these rights for everyone. We want to facilitate the means to practice freedom within the framework of the moral and legal systems, because of our belief that the freedom of man is the way to all goodwill, progress, and creativity. Attacks on rights and freedom under any slogan, even Islam itself, tests the humanity of mankind, puts him in a position below what God gave him, comprises a barrier to his potentials and talents, and does not offer prosperity. However, as we declare all of this, we declare before the world conscience that the great injustices this age is witnessing always harm the Muslims, and do not come from them. Wise people and believers everywhere must raise their voices and call for equality in enjoying freedom and human rights. This equality is the real road to international and social peace and to a new world order that rectifies the oppression, harm, and aggression in this world.

Here we are, holding our holy book in our right hand; this is the testimony we give about ourselves; this is our call for wisdom and good advice for a new chapter in the relations among people and nations, from which evil will be pulled out by the roots and everyone will return to the arena of justice, freedom, and peace.

"Our Lord! Decide thou between us and our people in truth, for thou art the best to decide." [Koranic verse]

May God's peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, and on his kinsmen and disciples.

[Signed] The Muslim Brotherhood

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Brotherhood Figure Discusses Oklahoma Blast

NC0705105295 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
2 May 95 p 5

[Article by Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Guide Dr. Ahmad al-Malat: "Between Tokyo and Oklahoma"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A few weeks ago people in the Japanese capital of Tokyo were horrified by a poisonous gas attack in the subway there, which killed scores of people and affected hundreds of others. It turns out that a Buddhist group called the "Ultimate Truth," headed by a Japanese maniac, was behind it. He wanted to bring down the temple on the heads of those inside it or to follow the footsteps of Nero, who burned Role then sat down to play his violin as if nothing had happened.

There was a similar tragedy a few days later in Yokohama, where one of the groups released poisonous gas at a subway station just as in the previous incident. With no clamor or fuss, officials in the Japanese Government laid their hands on the perpetrators and treated the matter as a domestic incident carried out by lunatics who have no religion and no God, who prostrate themselves before fire and worship their own whims to the exclusion of God. It was a hard lesson for Japan, which treated the matter very calmly and did not keep the whole world preoccupied with it, to the extent that people would have forgotten about it were it not for the exaggerated media coverage.

But in Oklahoma City all hell broke loose. A few days after the Japan incidents, a booby-trapped truck stuffed with more than 1,000 kg of explosives was detonated in front of a federal government building in that city, killing scores of people and wounding hundreds of others, not to mention the hundreds who are still unaccounted for under the debris. Needless to say, the Muslim Brothers denounce and reject such lowly criminal acts, which Islam would never sanction regardless of the motives behind it. All divine religions reject terrorism and call for coexistence and peace among people. [passage omitted]

The entire universe marched behind the coffins sobbing and mourning, which is not surprising considering that those killed are from among the American people, the masters of the world who have taken charge of the world's future after having exhausted the Russian bear and confined it to the remote ice caves in freezing Siberia!! It is all right to shed crocodile tears in this sad procession in which the United States is wailing, echoed by people in both East and West. It is perfectly all right, for the United States is the "mother the world", as they say!!

But what is really strange is for hypocrites—and they are many—to gratuitously pin this dirty accusation on Islamists in America and for the radio and television waves worldwide to pulse with accusations against Islam, the enemy of civilization and the center of threats to every beautiful thing produced by this civilization. [passage omitted]

Then finally the truth came out and investigators realized that behind the Oklahoma bombing stood two persons belonging to a U.S. terrorist group called the "Michigan Militias," a paramilitary group that has appointed itself defender of the U.S. Constitution and that considers the U.S. Government the Constitution's number one enemy. The Oklahoma incident coincided with the second anniversary of the murder of eight members of the "Branch Davidians" group in Texas, including its founder David Koresh.

Does this evidence alone not give an indication about the motive for the Oklahoma massacre? It is the U.S. madness that has gripped the minds of youths in a country where freedoms are unlimited and unrestrained. As a result, youths were led toward this shoreless ocean where everything that runs contrary to reason, creed, and customs is done. I suppose that this is the reasonable interpretation for the stumbling of the United States into the unknown, which will wipe out everything in the land of civilization, after which regrets will be of no use!

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno finally announced the detention of the first defendant in this tragedy, confirming the domestic nature of the Oklahoma blast. Thus, they themselves said it, not us. Had we said it, they would replied like the Jews said to Moses: "We shall never believe in thee until we see God manifestly." [Koranic verse]

Come, Let Us Be Frank With You, Mr. Clinton

Amid this sorrow that has befallen the world, and in which we share, we would like to tell you frankly what we feel, particularly as we would have been the target of attack but for the mercy of God, for "Verily God will defend those who believe." [Koranic verse]

Were you not moved when you heard and saw the war of extermination in the Balkans, in which thousands of men have been slaughtered like sheep, thousands of virgins raped, mosque minarets demolished, homes destroyed, and whole areas evacuated of their Muslim residents? Did you not hear the screams of those free warriors who did not ask you or the United States to send men, weapons, or money but asked you—in your capacity as the decisionmaker for the whole globe—to allow them to obtain weapons to defend their land and honor? O Americans, you turned a deaf ear to the call of free

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men who have not yet laid down their arms and who will accept only one of two auspicious fates: victory or martyrdom.

We see you today making harsh threats against those who are proven guilty. You have the right to do this, but is it not better to be patient and ascertain the facts instead of being hasty, as in the Oklahoma case? Firm confrontation is necessary, as those warriors demand even as they are caught between the millstones with no weapons with which to defend themselves.

Did you not shed one tear for those who were kneeling before their God in the sanctuary of Hebron's al-Ibrahimi Mosque on that fasting day when a sinful hand belonging to one of your darling sons of Zion assassinated them? You never uttered a word about that event. Indeed the whole world knows what you signify to those Zionists. You support them in the UN Security Council, use your accursed veto to keep them from harm, and supply them with everything from pins to rockets to make them stronger than all the Arabs combined. Did you not hear what those Zionists did to the Palestinians, the rightful owners of the land? They expelled them by force and forced them to disperse. Then they brought hordes of Jews from various countries to occupy Palestinian homes and inherit their holy places. Today you and your supporters are trying to dictate a so-called peace to the Arabs, and to hell with the Palestinians!

You sent your troops to Somalia with intentions that were publicly merciful but covertly horrible. When the Somalis rubbed your nose in the dirt, you took up your staff and returned to where you came from, abandoning the cause that you had claimed you came to defend. You weepingly shouted: enough of Somalia and this campaign. Where is your manly effort?

Look at your foster child, Israel, perpetrating horrible acts in south Lebanon and insisting on occupying part of Lebanese territory after trampling on its dignity and occyping its capital, Beirut. All you did there was defend the actions of your foster child and its persecution of Lebanon's unarmed people. Now you and Israel are denouncing the Lebanese people's legitimate struggle in defense of their land and honor. You describe the struggler as a terrorist.

Have you heard, Mr. President, that the struggle of nations for the sake of their own freedom and dignity is a legitimate action and even a duty? Indeed, in Islam it is the personal duty of every Muslim man and woman. This is a very different matter from the illegal terrorism that was born on your land and which you exported to the whole world through the dirty actions of your intelligence services, which are designed to smother what is right and replace it with what is false and evil.

Mr. President, we have many grievances but we do not bring them to you. We bring them before God and pray He gives us a mature understanding of our affairs and guides our steps to the path of righteousness. If we are righteous, we will have the right to call for His help and be sure that He will listen.

As to you, Mr. President, we advise you not to use ten different standards and not to be one-eyed, seeing with your right eye but not with your left. Otherwise the fate of the Americans will be like the fate of their predecessors and then they will regret it when it is too late.

Palestinian Affairs

Peres Plan Rejected; Diplomatic Offensive To Continue

TA1005070095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 10 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinians say they will pursue their diplomatic offensive until Israel retracts its decision to expropriate land in East Jerusalem. They also reject Minister Peres' remarks about confiscating land to build housing projects for Arabs in East Jerusalem. Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Menahem] The Palestinians celebrate 'Id al-Adha today. Although official institutions are closed, they are continuing to work on the issue of the land expropriations in East Jerusalem. The Palestinians are determined to continue to fan the flames. Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], the official in charge of economic affairs in the Palestinian Authority, says that the Palestinians will continue their political offensive.

[Abu-'Ala', in English] It will be taken to the Security Council, and it will be discussed between al-Husayni and Shahal. We hope that the Israelis will change their mind. Otherwise, it will be a real problem.

[Ben-Menahem translates the above and continues] We expect Israel to honor its commitments toward the peace process, particularly the agreement whereby the issue of Jerusalem will be put off until the permanent solution, Abu-'Ala' stressed.

The Palestinians ridicule Shim'on Peres' pronouncements about expropriating land in the Sha'ar Mizrah area in Jerusalem to build housing projects for the Arab population. We do not want land expropriations; we want to be allowed to build our houses on our own land, they say. The ball is now in Israel's court, the Palestinians reiterate; Yitzhaq Rabin is the one who decided to

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confiscate the land, and he is the one who must rescind the decision at once. [end recording]

Sha'th Urges Pressure

MM1005104195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 May 95 p 3

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-Husayn] The Liaison Committee has begun its meetings in Cairo against a background of Arab, Palestinian, and international vigilance because of Israel's provocative actions on Jerusalem. What could such meetings do to settle and resolve the current dispute?

[Sha'th] The problem of Jerusalem tops the committee's agenda. There are other issues, the most important being the question of redeployment and the closure policy. What is new about the committee is that it is meeting at a high level in the presence of expert delegations on both sides in various fields. That calls for optimism that Israel might come up with some solutions to the current problems. We hope to be able to reactivate the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track and get an Israeli pledge not to encroach on Jerusalem and to revoke its land expropriation decision until we get to the final phase in accordance with the Cairo and Oslo agreements.

[Abu-Husayn] Do you believe that the Israeli delegation will propose a solution regarding Jerusalem during this meeting and that the Israeli foreign minister is bringing something new?

[Sha'th] Israel must come up with a practical solution, rescind its expropriation decision, and declare practical and executive commitment to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement because we have reached a crucial stage which threatens to torpedo the peace process. Yesterday I met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya. We discussed the problems Israel is creating for the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]. These are problems which make us acknowledge the importance of suspending the multilateral negotiations hosted by Tunisia so that Israel would realize that there would be no progress in its relations with the Arab states before progress is made on the Palestinian-Israeli track. Tunisian President Zine El Abidine assured us of his full commitment to what we proposed. That assurance was repeated by the foreign minister during the emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers.

[Abu-Husayn] How do you view the Arab League's resolution on Jerusalem? Do you see it as sufficient to make Israel back down?

[Sha'th] In the current Arab situation, that resolution is considered to be strong and could help find a mechanism for action and pressure on the United States and Israel to rescind its land expropriation decision, particularly as Israel is beginning to behave incorrectly toward the Arab states and very insolently toward the Arab and international public opinion. Hence the Arab resolution which came as a significant strategic line putting Israel in its place. Israel should understand as we negotiate with it that it cannot penetrate Arab ranks one after another and keep Arab territory at the same time. What is regrettable is that the resolution does not have an implementation mechanism in the sense that it is not binding on Israel. That is why everyone should act extensively at international level to ensure its implementation.

[Abu-Husayn] Do you expect the Security Council to respond to the Arab resolution and consider the Palestinian call?

[Sha'th] The Arabs insist on their position that the Security Council must hold an emergency meeting to discuss land expropriation in Jerusalem. But the United States would not only veto the Arab resolution, it would prevent the Security Council from holding an emergency meeting as it has been doing since the Ibrahimi mosque massacre whenever there is a Palestinian call for such a meeting.

PLO Assails Plan for More Seizures

JN0905184795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The PLO today reacted to the Israeli housing minister's announcement on Israel's determination to confiscate further land in Jerusalem.

Nasir al-Qudwah, PLO's representative at the United Nations, said these measures prove anew Israel's true intentions and plans to violate not only the UN Security Council resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention, but also the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

U.S. Action Urged

TA0805122495 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 7 May 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Confiscations — Between the Arab League and the Security Council"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The resolutions issued by the Arab League concerning the issue of Israeli confiscations of land in Arab East Jerusalem contain many of the

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trademarks of previous resolutions issued by the League regarding many aspects of the Palestinian problem. This issue was addressed in the same traditional Arab approach epitomized by condemnation and denunciation. As is the norm, the Israeli decision was termed illegal and said to represent a flagrant defiance of UN Security Council resolutions. All this is a continuation of the traditional approach the League has pursued with regard to the Palestinian problem.

Despite all that, however, the resolutions contained an important clause which can be described as somewhat practical and realistic. This is the clause in which the Arab League undertook to hold immediate contacts with the United States and Russia, cosponsors of the peace process, as well as with the UN Security Council members and the EU states, with the aim of mobilizing support for the Palestinian and Arab stance on the issue of expropriations in Jerusalem. This positive clause requires intensive efforts by the Arab League in the form of an extensive diplomatic campaign to persuade these countries of the justness of the Palestinian stance on one hand and, on the other, to induce them to pressure the Israeli side to back down from its decisions, which contravene the realities of the peace process.

As for raising this issue with the UN Security Council, despite the fact that the Palestinian side assumed this task even before the Arab League foreign ministers council convened, there are questions about what the Security Council can do in practice to support the Palestinian stance, particularly because the history of this council and its record with regard to the Palestinian problem do not encourage one to be optimistic about a tangible change occurring in its leanings — at least to the extent of actual support for Palestinian demands. At this time, U.S. sources have announced their objection to discussing the expropriations issue in the Security Council because, they say, it is not the appropriate place for a discussion of this issue.

It remains the duty of the Palestinian side, with the help of the Arab League, to exert the utmost efforts with the countries and parties that can influence Israel, be they Arab, Islamic, or European, and especially with the United States, which is fully capable of influencing both Israel and the UN Security Council. This capability, however, is limited because of U.S. support for the Israeli side. Nevertheless, considering the fact that Washington is the sponsor of the peace process and bearing in mind that the confiscation decisions harm the chances of a just peace, the United States should act by placing the future of the peace process above any other considerations. Will Washington do what is required of it, or will it continue its role of supporting Israeli positions even at the expense of the present and future of the peace process?

Imam Discusses Arab Stance

NC1005071695 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 10 May 95

[Telephone interview with Shaykh Muhammad Husayn, imam and preacher of the al-Aqsa Mosque, in Jerusalem, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, carried on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Al-Jundi] Shaykh Muhammad Husayn, we welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Husayn] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] Let us start with the celebrations of the blessed 'Id al-Adha this year, which are taking place while important and dynamic events are happening in the Palestinian issue, particularly regarding the position of the city of Jerusalem. What do you have to say to us?

[Husayn] On this blessed day and from the holy al-Aqsa Mosque, we send our most sincere congratulations and good wishes on the 'Id to all our Muslim brothers everywhere. From the heart of holy Jerusalem, which is the first qiblah and third holiest shrine, we ask the Islamic nation—the whole Islamic nation—to stand alongside holy Jerusalem, alongside the holy al-Aqsa Mosque, which these days is going through difficult circumstances. The extremist Jews are trying to damage the sanctity of this mosque, which we all know has a noble place in the heart of every believer. The holy al-Aqsa Mosque constitutes part of the doctrine of Muslims everywhere, because it is the place the prophet started his nocturnal journey to heaven. [passage omitted]

The Muslims should not ignore the issue of the holy al-Aqsa Mosque and Jerusalem, which these days is experiencing crucial developments, along with the Palestinian cause in general, which is going through difficult circumstances that require the Arab and Islamic nation to adopt a serious and honest stance. We expect our nation to adopt such a stance alongside the holy al-Aqsa Mosque to rescue and defend it and to defend Jerusalem and the Palestinian cause, whose people have sacrificed a great deal and offered much for the sake of their freedom and dignity.

[Al-Jundi] Shaykh Husayn, this serious stance you mention was represented in the emergency session of the Arab League Council held last Saturday [6 May] in Cairo. It strongly condemned Israel's decision to

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expropriate Palestinian land in Jerusalem and agreed to refer discussion of this topic to the international Security Council. But in very definite terms, what is the role of the Islamic world today as part of the action to protect the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem and during our celebrations of the first days of the holy 'Id al-Adha?

[Husayn] Sir, we thank the Arab nation for its emergency meeting, which was a response to the Palestinian call. The Arab League Council convened and passed some good resolutions that we hope will be a serious, honest, and practical step toward defending Jerusalem and the holy places. We also hope this will put pressure on the world through international bodies so that it will adopt the correct stance to implement all its resolutions and not apply double standards. For example, in some areas, such as Iraq, the United Nations strictly implements its resolutions. We also hope this stance will be adopted in the resolutions concerning Palestine.

But the Arab and Islamic nation has wide-ranging possibilities apart from this international body. I believe that by uniting the efforts of the nation and by adopting a very clear stance that clarifies things in detail regarding Jerusalem and the al-Aqsa Mosque, which form the red line, the doctrine, I believe that when the nation defends its doctrine and when the world feels the Islamic nation is serious in its stance, that stance will push things in the correct direction and along the appropriate route, deterring others from their provocative attempts and land expropriation. They will be frightened of the united stance of the Arab and Islamic nation. [passage omitted]

Officials Argue Against Transferring U.S. Embassy

JN0905155695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 May 95

[Dispatch by 'Adil al-Za'nun from Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman, has said that 1 July is a very important date and constitutes the last opportunity. He was referring to reaching an agreement on redeployment and legislative elections.

In statements to journalists today, Kanafani added that a small number of Palestinians was released from Israeli jails yesterday, but that their release was long overdue. He considered the release of such a small number as a scandal at a time when we are celebrating 'Id al-Adha. He said that Israel's credibility has collapsed due to its practices, and that Israel is not dealing with us as a partner in the peace process.

In another development, Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file, has stated that if the United States moves its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem this will mean that the Americans are a party to this move. He said such an action will be against our concept of the peace process because the United States is a cosponsor of this process.

Al-Husayni said that if the United States makes this move for Israel's sake then the people will not view the Americans as a cosponsor of the peace process.

For his part, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President 'Arafat, has expressed regret over the position of some U.S. congressional leaders who are calling for moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem at a time when the peace process is facing many threats.

Abu-Rudaynah said he was astonished because this is taking place at a time when the Israeli Government is expropriating land in Jerusalem. He added that it is the duty of the United States, as a cosponsor of the peace process, to consolidate this process. He said it is important for the U.S. Administration's decisions to be in the interest of the peace process.

Arabs Urged To Confront 'Challenges'

TA0905144895 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 8 May 95 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "The Israeli Decisions and U.S. Support"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a time when intense contacts are taking place to force Israel to revoke its decisions on the confiscation of Arab land in Jerusalem, feverish attempts are under way in Washington by the Republican majority in Congress to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. These attempts underscore the immense support awaiting Israel if the Republican Party wins the presidential elections.

This is a clear indication of total bias in favor of the Israeli position and of support for decisions emanating from Tel Aviv that are not in the interests of peace. The U.S. Administration is supposed to show concern for this peace by implementing its commitments.

These two positions in the U.S. and Israeli arenas have placed the PLO in a delicate and critical situation in the face of which the Palestinian people, in all their tendencies, should agree on a single approach and plan in defense of their rights and Jerusalem. Moreover, the Palestinian leadership should approach the Arab brothers — with a carefully studied, sound, and clear plan — to revive active and sound Arab solidarity in order to confront the challenges threatening the dignity and security of all Arabs.

The current stage calls for convening an urgent Arab summit, even if it is limited, to discuss recent developments and hold Israel responsible for the failure of the

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peace process. Recent Israeli measures can only be interpreted in one way, namely, Israel backing down from its commitments and unambiguous insistence on moving forward in the Judaization of Jerusalem. As President 'Arafat stated clearly and loudly in the Arab League Council, Jerusalem is a red line.

Hamas Leader: 'Arafat, Authority Cater to Israel

NC1005083695 Paris AFP in English 0709 GMT 10 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, May 10 (AFP) — A HAMAS leader on Wednesday [10 May] urged PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's self-rule authority to "return to God" and fight Israel instead of jailing and allegedly torturing fellow Palestinians.

Speaking to 4,OOO worshippers at dawn prayers for the Moslem feast of sacrifice, Shaykh Ahmad Bahr accused police of catering to Israeli interests.

"The Palestinian authority is today sacrificing Palestinian blood, sacrificing the mujahidin," or holy warriors, said Bahr, a leading figure in HAMAS, an acronym for the Islamic Resistance Movement.

"Who are they doing this for? For (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Rabin's government ... for the devil," he said, at a sports field where the prayers were held.

"We ask the authority to flex its muscles against the Jews, not against the honorable Palestinian people. We ask the authority and the police to return to God."

Quoting verses from the Koran instructing Moslems to kill Jews, Bahr said the "humiliating peace agreement" with Israel has failed, and "nothing but Islam scares the Jews."

"The Palestinians are the fuel for the battle, and HAMAS is the spearhead of war."

His heated speech appeared to defy an order 'Arafat issued last week banning clerics from addressing political issues in sermons.

Mosques have also been ordered to remove all anti-government slogans and pictures from their walls by Friday.

"We only take orders from God, we shall continue — nothing but God can stop us," Shaykh Bahr told AFP, commenting on the ban.

The ban came as part of 'Arafat's crackdown on militants following the murder in Gaza on April 9 of seven Israelis and an American woman.

Hundreds of members of HAMAS and the Islamic Jihad were rounded up, but most have been released. About 70 remain in Palestinian jails, according to police.

But, HAMAS says the arrests continue and claims up to 200 of its members are behind bars.

The PLO chief meanwhile paid a traditional feast visit to the home of HAMAS spiritual guide Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, who has been jailed for life by Israel.

'Arafat has consistently called for the release of Yasin, and visited his family in Gaza City for the feast ending the holy month of Ramadan in March.

Islamic Jihad Orders No Agreement With Authority

TA0905103595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Islamic Jihad headquarters in Damascus has ordered its representatives in Gaza not to reach an agreement with the Palestinian Authority on a stoppage of terrorist attacks. An Israel Radio reporter said an instruction was given to the movement's activists to continue the attacks despite the current round of arrests.

In the Strip itself, an Islamic Jihad leader, Nafis 'Azzam, said he did not believe an agreement would be reached with the Authority because of their differences.

Fatah Official: Authority 'Embracing' Dialogue

JN0805193995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Fatah Movement official has asserted that the current dialogue is being held among the political and national forces, and that the National Authority is not only a party to this dialogue, but is also embracing it.

Dhiyab al-Lawh, head of Fatah's Information and Culture Department in the Gaza Strip, added that this dialogue is being held in a collective and bilateral manner. Several meetings were held on the level of all political forces as well as on a bilateral level between Fatah on the one hand and other political forces on the other.

He said these meetings greatly contributed to creating a suitable atmosphere for dialogue and paved the way for a comprehensive national dialogue which is addressing all national issues and contributing to the working out of a national program that will govern the work of all national and political forces. He added: As national forces, our only option is to hold dialogue which will yield good results.

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Document Defines Hamas Movement's Political Ideas

NC0905134095 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic
5 May 95 p 14

[Report by Ghassan Wahbah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Why was Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] formed and what Palestine does it want? What are Palestine's geographical borders, who is a Palestinian, and what is Hamas' concept of peace? Does this concept conform with the teachings of Islamic shari'ah? These questions and others are contained in a political document distributed on a small scale outlining Hamas' real political ideas. The document is titled "Hamas, a national liberation movement to resist the Israeli occupation."

The document is significant in that it does not refer directly or indirectly to the 1948 Palestinian refugees, as if the writer of the document is tacitly admitting that Palestine means only the territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The following is the full text of the document:

1. Prelude:

Israeli officials and their huge propaganda machine are launching a large-scale and intensified media campaign to distort the image of Islam and the Islamic liberation movements, especially Hamas, to portray them as a terrorist movement thirsty for bloodshed and harming innocent people. This concerted Israeli campaign is launched under the slogan of fighting Islamic terrorism and extremism. The Israeli Government is striving to convince regional and other states of the presence of a real danger represented by Islam and of the need to form blocs and alliances to confront the so-called danger of fundamentalism.

Regrettably, in view of the Israeli propaganda and its gigantic resources, states have begun to listen to one point of view, namely, the Israeli point of view. This memorandum is an attempt to present the other point of view and to explain the nature of Hamas as a resistance movement against the Israeli occupation and its repressive and unjust practices against the Palestinian people.

2. Hamas is a national liberation movement, not a terrorist movement:

Hamas was formed in December 1987 as a national movement expressing the hopes and dreams of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and the diaspora of rejecting the Israeli military occupation of Palestinian territories and of terminating and getting rid of it. Hamas' birth coincided with the start of the overwhelming Palestinian intifadah against the Israeli occupation and its repressive practices. The various sections of the Palestinian people in their various places and with their political and religious affiliations participated in this overwhelming popular intifadah against repression and injustice.

Hamas' concurrent inception with the Palestinian intifadah shows the nature of the movement and the nature of the goals for which it was formed. These goals are ending the occupation and confronting its repressive practices and measures against the Palestinian people. For two years after its inception, Hamas continued to undertake political and popular activity rejecting the continuation of the occupation and the escalation of its criminal practices against the Palestinian people. But with the escalation of Israeli terrorism against the movement and the Palestinian people, Hamas was compelled to defend itself and the Palestinian people against Zionist terrorism. It resorted to armed resistance against the Israeli occupation targets after every available means had been exhausted and nothing remained but to resort to legitimate resistance, which is recognized by every international law and norm governing the right to remove injustice and repel harm.

Hamas is not a terrorist movement, as Israel claims and circulates, but is a national liberation movement resisting occupation, struggling against Israeli terrorism, and standing up in the face of the Israel occupation authorities' practices and abuses of human rights. Hamas' activity is not confined to political work and armed resistance. It undertakes various intellectual, social, cultural, medical, charitable, and educational activity to ease the suffering of the Palestinian people and maintain their identity, which the Israeli occupation is seeking to erase. Hamas' activity is multifaceted, includes various political and humanitarian spheres, and is not confined to armed resistance.

Hamas has acted in a civilized way, stating its rejection of violence and terrorism. Despite Israel's plans to sow discord among the Palestinian people and its continuing pressure on the Palestinian Authority to push it to suppress Hamas, arrest its cadres, and ignite a Palestinian civil war, Hamas has dealt with the political differences over the solution of the Palestinian issue with great responsibility and self-restraint. It has stated its rejection of the use of force in the Palestinian arena to express a political stance, regardless of the differences. It considers showdowns and infighting a red line that must not be crossed.

Hamas believes in dialogue and it is open to all regional and international parties. Hamas has often declared its willingness to conduct a dialogue to introduce its

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policies and explain its vision and political stances. The movement has indeed held dialogues with a number of international parties. Hamas wants the others to get to know its real image through direct dialogue and not through Israel, which always endeavors to distort the movement's image.

Hamas does not oppose the UN resolutions. It welcomed UN Security Council Resolution 799, which recognized the right of return of the 415 Palestinians, who were deported by Israel to South Lebanon in 1992. Hamas called for implementing this resolution and urged regional and international parties to bring pressure to bear on Israel and make it implement the resolution and abide by its provisions.

However, the movement cannot accept resolutions that encroach on the Palestinian people's rights, reward the aggressor for his oppression, and punish the victim who has been subjected to persecution and oppression. The movement would support any fair resolutions that commensurate with and do not encroach on the Palestinian people's rights. Hamas has been continuously calling on the countries of the world to pressure Israel to abide by the UN resolutions, which were passed against it and in favor of the Palestinian people. It is regrettable, however, that the UN resolutions are not implemented against Israel and the world is ignoring Israel's refusal to heed these UN resolutions and is not taking any punitive measures against it.

Hamas has stressed that it is not against the peace principle. It supports peace and is endeavoring to achieve it. The movement concurs with the world opinion that peace should prevail throughout the entire world. Hamas supports the just peace that would enable the Palestinian people to exercise their rights to freedom, return, and self-determination. The movement believes that the agreements that were made in Oslo and Cairo fail to achieve the aspirations of the Palestinian people and the minimum of their hopes.

The movement emphasized that these agreements are not just. They harm our people, reward the aggressor, and recognize his right that he usurped from others. This is an attempt to dictate and impose the conditions of the victorious side and ask the oppressed side to concede its rights. Therefore, a peace with such specifications is doomed.

The Hamas movement respects the bases of political pluralism, democracy, and public freedoms. It also supports the rights of minorities and considers the Christians in Palestine partners in the homeland who were subjected to the same methods, like their brother Muslims. The Christians participated in confronting the occupation and its racist measures. They are an integral part of the Palestinian people. They have full rights and duties.

Being a national liberation movement, Hamas resists the Israeli racism and occupation, which treats the Palestinians as a second-or third-class citizens. Hamas sympathizes with all world liberation issues and supports the legitimate aspirations of the peoples who are endeavoring to liberate their land from occupation and the policy of discrimination and racism. Hamas supported the South African people's struggle against racism and discrimination. It welcomes the end of the racist policy there.

Hence, Israel's claims and attempts to accuse Hamas of terrorism are baseless and are mere Israeli attempts to justify its barbaric policy against our people and our struggle, which is being waged against the Israeli occupation, terrorism, and racism.

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Algeria

Anabib Head Fired After Assassinations in Ghardaia

LD0905191795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The minister of industry and energy dismissed the director general of the Anabib public enterprise in Ghardaia from his post on 9 May.

A statement issued by the Ministry of Industry and Energy said that the decision to dismiss him was made in the wake of the bloody incident that occurred at that enterprise on the night of 4-5 May that resulted in the assassination of five foreign nationals and an Algerian citizen.

The statement stressed that the investigation was still under way and that additional measures could not be ruled out.

Former Government Head Announces New Movement

LD0705133095 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reda Malek, the former head of the Algerian Government, has announced the formation of a new political movement.

[Unidentified correspondent] The movement is called the National Republican Alliance [Alliance Nationale Republicaine]. According to its founder, it will be resolutely committed to modernity and democracy, and its main goal is to be the struggle against Muslim extremism. Reda Malek made the following statement yesterday in a news conference in Algiers:

[Begin Malek recording] This is not a political party. What we want is a very wide-ranging movement that can respond to the present situation. The present situation is that the homeland is under threat, and all patriotic forces must now unite to confront this common peril. We are working to create a very wide-ranging movement, which we have in fact called an alliance, in order to emphasize the openness which will be its distinguishing characteristic. The doors are wide open to the whole society. Our action must above all be directed toward a clarification of the political climate. There is a vast fog that surrounds Algeria, a thick fog that prevents those outside from knowing what is occurring in this country. Our intention is not to pick a fight with anyone; we want to advance toward democracy and firmly anchor democracy in this country. [end recording]

Official Describes Aims

LD0705162295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 6 May 95

[Italicized passages recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] The National Republican Alliance [Alliance Nationale Republicaine — ANR] is born. In a statement released in Sidi Feredj this morning, the founders of this movement, who insist it should not be confused with a political party, have presented their strategy to try and contribute toward national recovery, which has already begun.

However, given that the crisis has already reached such proportions, the ANR believes it is necessary to put an end to a number of destructive ambiguities. The members of the ANR summed up these ambiguities, I quote, as the neutrality being observed by the state between, on the one hand, the democratic idea it embodies, and, on the other, fundamentalism, which aims to annihilate it. But the founders make a clear distinction between the state and the authorities. [ANR Vice President] Ali Haroun:

[Haroun] *The permanency of the former [the state] is opposed by the temporary nature of the latter [the authorities]. The authorities should not be shielded from criticism. It is the role of a democratic opposition to apply criticism and take responsibility for it. However, their role is essentially a political one. Should it go beyond its boundaries and slide into violence, it turns into a rebellion synonymous with sedition. Confrontation with the authorities then gets out of hand and turns into destructive hatred for the state, a ruinous enterprise for the country.*

Any lawful opposition must distinguish itself from a fundamentalist opposition that has outlawed itself.

[Announcer] What are the actions the alliance is intent on taking in order to take part [passage indistinct].

[Haroun] *[Passage indistinct]. Fundamentalist subversion must be checked and crushed or else it will lead the country to complete destruction.*

Secondly, the national state must introduce comprehensive reforms of its structures and the way it works in order to recover its credibility and its authority both at home and abroad.

Thirdly, a democratic and national alternative seems to be a vital necessity and a prerequisite in the face of fundamentalism, which is intent on imposing itself through terror and making use of authorities who have failed to endow themselves with a real basis in society despite the flexibility of the masses. Mobilizing the nation

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against the forces of obscurantism and their henchmen suggests a type of society that responds to people's aspirations and the requirements of our time.

[Announcer] Very precise actions, but an aim too. Ali Haroun:

[Haroun] *This alliance aims to restore hope to Algerians by putting an end to the prevailing skepticism and by fighting fatalism and irresponsibility; to clear the political climate in order to constitute a force able to make proposals and take an active part in the resolution of the crisis; to create a space for reflection with a view to paving the way for the future and ensuring that there is someone there to take over; to fight against the exclusion that throws some of our youth into destructive violence and nihilism; to take into account the legitimate demands of these young people and convince them that Algeria, which loves all its children, aims to set them back along the path of salvation, which is that of dignity and social justice; to work toward the establishment of a democratic state worthy of this name, of a modern democracy based on equality before the law whatever your sex or your political or religious preferences.*

[Announcer] The provisional members of the constitutive bureau, which number nine, are President Reda Malek; Vice Presidents Ali Haroun, Ali Slimani, and Ait Mouheb; Coordinator Salim Saadi; Treasurer (Nait Abdelaziz); and Assessors (Adli Younes), (Zineb Laouadj), and (Khelifa Mourad).

Organization Reveals Plan To Enter Election

LD0805142095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the sidelines of the Organization of Martyrs' Children regional conference held in Setif Province, Tahar Benbaibeche, the organization's secretary general, revealed to our correspondent Faisal Ghamis the organization's decision to enter the upcoming presidential elections as a national grouping. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Writer Views 'Likely U.S. Invasion' of Iran

NC1005105095 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 5 may 95 p 2

[Article by Muhammad al-'Izabi: "Beware of a New War"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The drums of war are beating again. Actually they never stopped. But this time they are drawing closer to us. All the signs indicate that the United States is harboring ill intentions toward Iran and, although we do not agree with the Iranian Government's policy, this does not mean its people should be bombarded or U.S. forces should be mobilized, perhaps under the UN banner or on behalf of a group of allies, to dictate "Uncle Sam's" wishes to it, either to please Uncle Sam's friends or distract the U.S. public's attention from other issues. There are plenty of pretexts, notably "terrorism," which has reached the heart of U.S. cities. They failed to blame it on the Muslims. Another pretext is the "nuclear bomb" they bless when it is in Israeli hands but curse if it is in Iranian hands. Things are escalating in a way that looks as if there is a specific date for an invasion or an air strike. But the situation today is very different from the circumstances surrounding the "Gulf war," when Iraq's erroneous invasion of Kuwait gave those who were lying in wait the rope with which to hang it. This time I doubt if the United States will find regional allies to use as a cover to claim that it was responding to a call for relief and not carrying out aggression.

Will the war happen and will we all stand around looking and doing nothing? Or will Carter, the man of reconciliation, come to persuade the Iranians to stop harassing "the reckless U.S. giant?" Or does this former U.S. President only go to regions where the United States really wishes to achieve harmony and reconciliation? And can Carter forget the insult he suffered when the U.S. hostages were detained in the early days of the Iranian revolution? Even if this "good man" seeks peace and a happy ending to the dispute, will U.S. and foreign circles allow him to do so?

The intentions are ill. The danger exists, is coming, and will affect all the region's countries. We have no recourse but to reject the likely U.S. invasion. We must carry out good offices, which will not work when there are ill intentions, but will at least cause the U.S. Government to review its calculations and perhaps realize that invasion brings risks and reactions that do not benefit the invaders.

Again I point out that Iraq's case and the circumstances surrounding it were different: A segment of the Arab public did not approve of what happened then. A larger segment is angered by the Iraqi people's continuing punishment and humiliation. Everyone knows the U.S. intervention was not for the sake of the Arabs, only in the name of the Arabs.

As for the drums of war, they are beating everywhere. If we draw a red dot on the globe for every area of conflict, it will look like a pool of blood. Apparently it is not easy for the guns to fall silent. Apparently the aim is not to let them fall silent, but to add new disputes and wars to the existing ones.

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Columnist Discusses U.S. Embargo Against Iran

NC0905103295 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 3 May 95 p 14

[From the "Keyhole" column by Kamil Zuhayri]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Bill Clinton dressed up in an elegant black evening suit and wore the traditional Jewish tarmulka, which only pious Jews wear, and went to attend the opening of the World Jewish Congress in New York on Sunday evening. The surprise was not wearing the small black tarmulka, but his sudden decision to halt trade and financial dealing between the United States and Iran and the declaration of the economic embargo on Iran because it leads 10 other countries in international terrorism. The timing, the place, and the occasion were another surprise. President Clinton chose strange timing because the United States from the east to the west coasts was preoccupied with the most serious terrorist and bloody incident at home. After suspicions hovered for several hours over foreign terrorism, an American national was arrested. He was said to be a member of an extremist rightist U.S. organization that declared war against the federal government. It was also said that the secret members of the organization total 10,000. Local and international televisions continued to feature this painful disaster, which was described as the most serious local terrorist incident to hit the United States since Word War II.

The extremist rightist organization reminded the Americans of the days of the Ku Klux Klan organization while it seemed to everyone that the danger was now greater because the new organizations declare war on the federal government itself.

President Clinton's surprise was his speech about "foreign" terrorism instead of terrorism in his own country. The greatest surprise was his decision declaring an economic, trade, and financial embargo against Iran. No one thinks that this embargo will succeed because the United States alone imports only one fifth of Iranian oil. Europe and Japan are the main exporters of Iranian oil. Unless the European countries and Japan back the U.S. decision, the U.S. embargo will remain mere words for local consumption at the World Jewish Congress. Among others, numerous countries deal with Iran, such as the PRC, North Korea, Brazil, Argentina, and Pakistan.

Even if President Clinton continues his call and campaign among the advanced industrial nations and his pressure on Russia to stop the peaceful nuclear cooperation, Moscow, in preparation for receiving President Clinton, decided to postpone the discussions until the visit takes place. This means that the embargo decision will remain a U.S. boycott and not an international embargo.

No one can explain this U.S. decision and whether President Clinton is looking for a "foreign" issue to divert the public's attention from this new and serious file that has been opened in the United States: "domestic terrorism." No one can say if he will continue to appease the powerful Zionist lobby in line with the old sarcastic adage: if a great man makes a mistake, he should continue his mistake.

Paper on U.S. Embargo on Iran, Israel's Policy

NC0805205495 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 3 May 95 p 14

[From the "Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yes, Iran supports and funds terrorism and plans dirty acts of terror. Also, there is no question that it seeks to possess nuclear weapons so that it can achieve domination of the Middle East and the Gulf region. Iran outdoes itself every day in planting minefields on the path of peace because the mullahs hate to see peace prevail and the peoples enjoying peace and stability. How can these people, who follow the wrong path and want to appoint themselves custodians of Muslims and non-Muslims, be dealt with?

I personally believe that the measure that Washington has taken by imposing a total economic embargo on Tehran is "deficient," and will not achieve its desired goal. The Americans should have "fixed up" matters in the Gulf region before deciding on the embargo. This is because numerous countries in the Gulf region have "very close" ties with Iran's black cloaks, while these same countries are totally loyal to the United States. So what is the use of halting trade, for instance, between Washington and Tehran while the borders with its "neighbors" remain open? Who can guarantee that a "third" party will not expand its activities while no one is watching?

On the other hand, what is the difference between Iran and Israel when it comes to scuttling the peace process and their feverish race to possess nuclear bombs and support terrorism? Any fair man will concede this recognize that both parties are following the same path. If Tehran acts to undermine the peace process by funding and supporting terrorists, Israel is doing the same. There are numerous pieces of evidence. Suffice it to note Israel's insistence on closing off the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and expropriating land in East Jerusalem. Moreover, there is this strange Israeli obduracy, totally supported by the United States, in

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refusing to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Is this in any way different from the Tehran rulers' efforts to fulfill their ambitions in the same field?

Anyway, I fully agree with the U.S. Administration that Iran should adopt moderate stances so that it can rejoin the international community. The question remains whether Israel, with Rabin's current policy, is moderate in its stance.

Opposition Daily on Israel's Role in Embargo

NC0905103095 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 3 May 95 p 1

[Editorial: "Israel's Hidden Fingers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Evidently, U.S. President Bill Clinton is the only person who can tell which interests are best served by his decision to sever the trade relations with Iran and freeze the U.S. investments there.

The fact is that the embargo will not affect Iran at all, because Iran spent long years without U.S. generosity. Iran, therefore, can live more long years without it. It is also certain that the U.S. companies are not the only loser. There is also the U.S. people, who will pay the price of unemployment, depression, and inflation.

If the drug lords in a country like Columbia pay the expenses for the president's election, it is worth mentioning that the monopoly of the U.S. oil companies chooses the president who is willing to serve their interests and that removes the president if he departs from the charted policy.

The question is: Why then did Clinton insist on losing his shares on the domestic front after losing his shares abroad when he is in dire need of every means of support so that he can win the election for a second term? Hence, Israel's hidden fingers moved behind the curtain, drafted the U.S. decision, and convinced Clinton to sign in return for the Zionist Lobby's support in the election.

It is not strange, therefore, that Clinton announced the decision before the Zionist Congress. It is also not strange that the U.S. UN representative visited Israel at the time when the decision was made. It is equally not surprising that Israel is the only country that strongly supported the decision, while Clinton's staunchest allies did not support it because they believed that they are not concerned with this battle.

Truly, Iran is the only remaining thorn in Israel's side in its dreams for expansion and hegemony.

Article Says U.S. Making 'More Enemies'

NC0805194495 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 4 May 95 p 4

[Article by Muhammad 'Abdallah: "Left and Right"]

[Text] What has the United States been doing for years? It is out in all directions and trying boldly to steer the entire world where it wants it to go. Even its allies were not spared its painful blows, the latest being against Japan in the form of a U.S.-orchestrated drop in the dollar's exchange rate against the yen. The decline has cost Japan's exports and investments in the United States immediate losses amounting to billions of dollars.

France was the U.S. ally to receive the first blow following the Gulf war, when the United States denied it a fair share in the reconstruction projects after Kuwait's liberation from Iraq's occupation. The United States continues to chase France away from Iraq and is determined to continue the international embargo on Baghdad, despite the billions of dollars worth of agreements concluded between French companies and the Iraqis.

As for the blows dealt to the United States' old enemies, they are as cruel as they can be. Their cruelty has affected innocent peoples in Iraq, Libya, the former Yugoslavia, North Korea, and other world countries. The United Nations itself received a painful blow a few years ago when it was turned into a forum for serving the U.S. foreign policy, after the United States had complained for years that the UN was hostile to and opposing it on all votes, except those which the United States could stymie by using the veto in the Security Council.

Finally, Washington is trying to add Iran to the camp of Iraq and Libya, claiming that Tehran is backing terrorism and is trying to produce nuclear weapons. U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision a few days ago to impose an overall embargo on Iran is only the first step toward what the United States is publicly asking for: A worldwide embargo on Tehran. Some people seem to think that by doing so the United States is scoring one victory after another, but in fact with the passage of time it is creating for itself more enemies beneath the surface, some of whom—in public—are allies and are determined to remain so. Officials in many countries may refrain from criticizing this U.S. attitude, but what is certain is that—regardless of the statements they make, which are very different—they are outraged at the U.S. policies, which seek to govern and control the world. Thus, what looks like successive U.S. victories are half victories in the long run. This means that these

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blows are in fact half defeats for a policy that lacks balance and does not look beyond ruling and controlling.

Albright's Statements on Israel, NPT Viewed

NC0905212195 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 5 May 95 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Jalal Duwaydar: "No Mrs. Albright, it Is 'Double Standards'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For stability to prevail in the Middle East, justice and international legitimacy must be applied, and no country can receive special treatment.

You cannot ask countries to respect international or regional resolutions, even if they are meant for common good, if a certain other country or countries may be excluded from complying.

It is absolutely unacceptable that some basic world issues which conflict with international laws and principles are treated lightly because the big powers stand impotent in the face of flagrant violations to legitimacy.

I am commenting on the statements by Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, the organization that is entrusted with establishing justice and protecting international legitimacy.

Asked after her talks in Cairo about the U.S. position on Israel's expropriation of Palestinian lands in occupied Jerusalem, Mrs. Albright said she believes the issue should not be discussed by the Security Council. She did not hesitate to state this biased and submissive position, even though she is fully aware that the Israeli measure, a clear and flagrant act of aggression, totally conflicts with the UN resolutions and the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement.

Further asserting U.S. bias toward Israel, a bias that cannot be concealed at any official U.S. level, Albright said she does not believe Israel's refusal to join the nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty [NPT] can be classified as reflecting a policy of "double standards." Really!

She claimed that the United States is seeking to achieve universality for the NPT — without Israel, of course — and she hoped the day comes when the Middle East is free of weapons of mass destruction!

Although we have repeatedly condemned the support which Iran and some other countries give to terrorist and sabotage groups — which certain U.S. agencies cannot be absolved from involvement in — we in Egypt had hoped that Washington's recent enthusiasm to confront this terrorism would extend to Israel's conduct, which defies the world with its aggression, terrorism, and blackmail.

For a sense of credible justice to dominate the Middle East, we also hope the United States and the rest of the world will treat Israel like they treat other countries.

The sense of injustice and discrimination, brought about as a result of the positions of the big powers — which are supposed to be more fair and show more respect for international legitimacy — creates bitter feelings and inflames hatred — factors that lead to further instability and the disturbance of world security.

Mubarak Receives Clinton Cable, Chirac Call

NC0905145095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak has received a congratulatory cable on the blessed 'Id al-Adha from U.S. President Bill Clinton. In his cable, President Clinton expressed his heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for him and prosperity for the Egyptian people and all peoples in the region.

President Mubarak has received a telephone call from French President-elect Jacques Chirac in which he thanked the president for his congratulatory cable following the announcement of his victory in the French presidential elections. Chirac also congratulated President Mubarak on the blessed 'Id al-Adha, wishing him and the Egyptian people prosperity and progress and hoping that relations between the two friendly countries will witness further progress and cooperation.

Sudan

Rebel Movement Denies Kidnapping Foreigners

AB0905130695 Paris AFP in English 1252 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nairobi, May 9 (AFP) — A rebel movement in south Sudan on Tuesday [9 May] denied kidnapping two foreign aid workers, an Italian and a Filipino, and blamed a rival movement which it accuses of fighting alongside government troops.

The military junta in Khartoum had Monday accused the rebels of abducting the two workers during attacks on a relief barge in Upper Nile State in a bid to have the food supplies diverted.

The government accused the South Sudan Independence Movement (SSIM) led by Riak Machar of at least one of the kidnappings, but a spokesman for the group said "we are not responsible".

The spokesman, David de Chand, also told AFP in Nairobi that the mainstream rebel movement fighting the government, the Sudan People's Liberation Army

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(SPLA) led by Colonel John Garang, did not carry out the abductions either.

He blamed "Khartoum's government militia led by Lam Akol", who had been one of the co-founders of the SSIM, but was expelled last year and has been accused of going over to the junta, which is backed by Islamic fundamentalists.

"How could we be foolish enough to deny our population some food" by stealing it, De Chand said.

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) in Nairobi on Tuesday confirmed that the second kidnapped worker was a Philippines national, as also stated by the WFP in Rome, contradicting a report from the Sudanese foreign ministry that he was a Vietnamese.

The dates and full circumstances of the kidnappings were not clear on Tuesday, but the WFP in Rome said the kidnapped Italian had been able to reach his colleagues in Khartoum by radio to say that he had been taken to Pakan, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) from Malaskan in the south.

The government said the barge El-Dooma, which was carrying relief supplies for the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), was intercepted in the Fanjak-Tonga area of the Upper Nile province.

The foreign ministry said the rebels' actions were "barbaric conduct" that violated a ceasefire allowing the UN Operation Lifeline Sudan to deliver food and medicines to civilian victims of civil war in the south of the country.

Last year, the mainstream rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), abducted five UN workers carrying out an immunization programme and detained them for seven days, before the United Nations secured their release.

Last month, two relief workers were also reported to have been abducted by a rebel faction in southern Sudan and were freed after strong pressure from UN agencies.

The SSIM is a breakaway movement from the SPLA, which has been fighting successive regimes in Khartoum, including the current military junta, to free the animist and Christian south from domination by the mainly Islamic north, for more than a decade.

Foreign Minister on Rebels, 'Improving' Situation

NC0305164395 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 21 Apr 95 p 21

[Interview with Dr. Ghazi Salah-al-Din, minister of state for foreign affairs, by Nadir Banjak, in Khartoum; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Banjak] First, we would like to learn about the situation in Sudan in light of the military victories scored by the Sudanese forces against the rebels in the south.

[Salah-al-Din] The situation is always improving, God willing. The domestic front is now more stable, united, and cohesive than it was a few years ago. Economically, we now have a more stable economy and there is more reliance on our own resources. Militarily, we are moving from one victory to another. We have not suffered a single defeat recently, and we are about to cross into the safety zone as far as southern Sudan is concerned. The problem fed by arms and training that Israel and the states of global arrogance provide to rebels. We also scored political victories in the south by applying the federal system and giving every region a chance to rule and develop itself.

[Banjak] What about negotiations with the rebels? Can they be resumed?

[Salah-al-Din] We are always open to negotiations, and I do not think that we will close the door on negotiations to any of this homeland's sons. We believe that the rebels are the victims of a colonialist scheme that led them to believe that Sudan and the Arab and Islamic culture target them, and that the Arabs came to trade in slaves. This is a prominent point in colonialist theory. Therefore, we believe that dialogue is necessary. With the existence of this deep-rooted colonialist plan that has social and economic dimensions, dialogue and understanding become inevitable. We use our military victories to create a suitable climate for true negotiations and to achieve satisfactory results for both sides.

[Banjak] How do you evaluate relations between the government and the Sudanese parties?

[Salah-al-Din] We offered a new method: We said that we must unify the country through a divine Islamic policy open to all. We are against the party formula. We believe that Islam is for all. Freedoms are now available and elections are now being held in the country not on the basis of the party system, but on the basis that the entire Muslim society belongs to one party, the party of God.

The door is now open, and we found great response from the supporters of all former parties. The members of

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the former political parties, of various political schools, were originally mobilized for the cause of Islam by the Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party. The Islamic Front was also mobilizing and uniting those masses.

[Banjak] Western media in particular speak about opposition in Sudan and say that the Sudanese Government is oppressing it. What is your comment?

[Salah-al-Din] The so-called opposition completely failed to mobilize any person to support its cause. Leaders of this opposition, therefore, go to Washington to invite it to invade Sudan, and they say this explicitly.

This alleged opposition is today allying itself with John Garang. This same opposition was in power six years ago and it was fighting the rebel movement. Now, they join forces and fight alongside each other.

Now that you have visited Sudan, have you seen a police state? We have no political detainees. In other neighboring countries, which claim to be democratic, thousands of citizens are carted off to prisons and detention camps in one night. People there are killed just because they are Islamist suspects.

[Banjak] As is known, Sudan's relations with some neighboring countries like Egypt, Eritrea, and Uganda are currently at ebb. How would you assess the relations with these countries?

[Salah-al-Din] As a result of its independent and Islamic trend, Sudan represents a direct challenge to some countries. Regarding Egypt, Egypt supports Sudan just as Sudan supports Egypt; we always support each other against the same enemy, Israel.

We consider ourselves an opposition state against Israel. Therefore, it is meaningless that we may be considered a challenge to or a threat against the security of our brothers in Egypt. However, we regret that our position has been misinterpreted in Egypt.

As for Eritrea, this country has decided to become subservient to the U.S. plan to obtain assistance. Eritrea is a state that recently obtained independence and has no resources. You know that the easy way to obtain the blessings of those who claim to be the masters of the world is to attack Islam and Sudan because of its Islamic experiment. Concerning Uganda, it is a poor African country which pins hopes on financial and tourism aid. Therefore, it was necessary to find a scapegoat, namely Sudan.

[Banjak] What is your reply to the anti-Sudan schemes of the U.S.?

[Salah-al-Din] We must promote Islam in the hearts if our people because we believe that Islam is the true guarantee to mobilize the people. Furthermore, Islam is what helps us aid God Almighty. "If you will aid the cause of God, He will aid you." [Koranic verse] We are mobilizing the people to confront the Western challenge in general and the U.S. challenge in particular.

[Banjak] How do you assess the settlement process concerning Palestine?

[Salah-al-Din] We are against this. I believe that time will prove the inherent danger of this process.

[Banjak] What about your assessment of the Islamic resistance in Lebanon?

[Salah-al-Din] We are very proud. We believe that this resistance, which is resisting the occupation forces, is legitimate. We also believe that the sacrifices offered by the Lebanese people in south Lebanon deserve the respect of everyone. But we only support the Lebanese people through prayers.

[Banjak] Do you have anything else to say?

[Salah-al-Din] We urge our nation to always be optimistic, because optimism is one of the Prophet's characteristics. We must abide by this line and, God willing, we will soon be able to reach safety.

Tunisia

Ministry Condemns Israeli Actions in Jerusalem

LD0305180695 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the Israeli Government's decision to seize Arab land in Jerusalem, the Foreign Ministry issued a statement in which it said the following:

The Tunisian Government learned with great anxiety and amazement of the Israeli Government's seizure of more Palestinian Arab land. It strongly condemns this action, which contradicts UN resolutions on occupied Jerusalem, the Palestinian-Israeli agreement of the Declaration of Principles, and Israel's pledges. This matter is liable to delay the peace process at a time when the efforts of the international community are intensified in order to overcome the obstacles to the peace negotiations for establishing a just, durable, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region and to enable the Palestinian people to recover their legitimate rights and build their independent state on their national territory.

While it reiterates its stance—which rejects the policy of a fait accompli in holy Jerusalem—Tunisia calls on the international community, particularly the two cosponsors of the peace conference, to adopt a decisive

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stance in order to cancel the unjust Israeli decision. It also supports the call of the Palestinian authority for an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council to look into the issue and coordinate with the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] on this matter.

Islamic Front Denies Military Actions, Threats

MM0905131295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 May 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Tunisian 'Islamic Front'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — Mohamed Ali Herath [as transliterated], leader of the (unrecognized) Tunisian "Islamic Front," has said that his front does not carry out any military actions against Tunisian authorities. In a clarification received by AL-HAYAH he added that the front "denies any military presence for itself or anyone else in Algeria. It denies any direct or indirect participation in any action of a military nature inside our country or on its borders. It refutes the statements attributed to it. It denies any connection with the incidents or calls included in these statements or the persons who signed them. And it denies that it has made any threats to foreigners living in or visiting our country to leave." AL-HAYAH published at the beginning of the month a threat statement signed by "Abu Ja'far" for the Islamic Front, after contacts with Islamic sources in London.

Opposition Islamic sources said that it was identical to a previous statement issued by the front at the beginning of the year. However, an official from the front has stressed to AL-HAYAH that the front does not carry out any military action, nor does it want to harm any foreigner in Tunisia, hence the threat statement is untrue.

AL-HAYAH received another statement by fax. It said that the threat to foreigners was issued by the "Islamic Group—Tunisia," not the Islamic Front. The statement is signed by the "information office of the Islamic Front—Tunisia." But an official from the front said that this statement too was not issued by the front.

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Bahrain

Amir Pardons Prisoners, Detainees on 'Id al-Adha

JN1005064695 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0520 GMT 10 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 10 May (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, has issued a decree, pardoning a number of prisoners and detainees on the occasion of blessed 'Id al-Adha.

This decree is an expression of his highness the amir of Bahrain's kindness. His highness usually issues such decrees on such lofty occasions.

Kuwait

Clinton Said Attacking Muslims, Arabs in U.S.

95LA0137A Kuwait AL-MUJTAMA' in Arabic
8 Feb 95 pp 38-40

[Report by Muhammad Dalbah in Washington]

[FBIS Translated Text] In his long state of the union speech to Congress on 24 January, U.S. President Bill Clinton declared that the United States cannot be strong at home unless it was strong abroad. He announced that his Administration has begun implementing a plan to combat forces that oppose a political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He issued a presidential order on 23 January freezing U.S. bank accounts of Arab and Islamic political and militant organizations, groups, and leaders accused by Washington of involvement in terrorism. Washington calls terrorism the fedayeen's operations carried out against the Israeli occupation forces in Palestine and Lebanon. Clinton's announcement came only two days after the daring fedayeen's operation carried out by the Islamic Jihad Movement in the Netanya area, near Tel Aviv, in occupied Palestine, on 22 January.

The U.S. move against the opponents of the Arab-Israeli settlement agreements coincided with the Israeli occupation authorities' escalation of their campaign of arrests against the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. It also coincided with the arrest of several supporters of the Islamic Jihad Movement by the Palestinian self-rule authority's police at Israel's request. In his address to the two houses of Congress, Clinton said he would submit to Congress this year "a comprehensive bill to strengthen our ability to fight the terrorists, whether they strike in our country or abroad." He added that "this country (America) will arrest the terrorists and bring them to justice" just as it did in the New York trade center bombing incident.

Clinton noted that his Administration will strive to achieve comprehensive peace between Israel and all its neighbors in the Middle East. He urged the U.S. allies and "peace lovers all over the world to join us to revive international efforts to combat terrorism." He said: "We cannot allow the future to be destroyed by terrorism, fear, and inaction."

The list announced by the White House included 18 Palestinian, Lebanese, and Egyptian political leaders and 10 Arab organizations opposed to the Arab-Israeli settlement process. The presidential order went into effect after the midnight of 23 January. Its first victim was Shaykh Umar Abd-al-Rahman, who is being held in a New York prison on charges of being the spiritual leader of an Islamic group that planned to carry out explosions in the greater New York area last year. Shaykh Abd-al-Rahman's lawyers regarded his detention as a violation of American justice. They claim his guilt has not been proven in court. By holding him in custody, the Clinton Administration has already condemned him. This, they say, will influence the decision of the jury, which will look into his case later this year.

The bill the Clinton Administration intends to submit to Congress later this year for approval includes steps that would allow FBI agents to monitor and record the telephone conversations of American Arabs. Expressing the Clinton Administration's determination to go ahead with its campaign against the opposers of peace with Israel, a U.S. official said "the Constitution is not a suicide pact."

The reactions of the Islamic community and its organizations in the United States to the Clinton Administration's statements have been completely negative. Dr. Muhammad Mahdi, chairman of the Islamic Affairs Council in New York, described the U.S. presidential order as "cosmetology." He said that most funds collected in the United States for the benefit of Arab and Islamic causes in the Middle East go to schools, hospitals, and other social needs. Mahdi estimated the total amount of money collected in the United States for such purposes at no more than $50,000 annually. He emphasized that President Clinton's decision will negatively affect legitimate political expression by American Muslims and others. A joint statement issued by the American Islamic Council, the Council for American-Islamic Relations, and the Council for Islamic Affairs affirmed that they support any legal action against individuals or groups that "participate in actual criminal activity." However, the statement noted that the "language of the order seems to classify all the political opponents of the limited self-rule agreement in Gaza and Jericho as supporters of terrorism." [?Ibrahim Huwayr], spokesman of the Council for American-Islamic Relations, affirmed that Clinton's order confirmed our long-standing fears that such a thing will happen. He added

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that this happened "because some elements in the Israeli lobby have accused Islamic groups of collecting donations for these purposes without showing any proof of the transfer of these funds. Commenting on the American list, [?Huwayr] said: "It is no more than information about who is who of Middle Eastern groups. I have never heard that these groups are active in the United States. Therefore, one wonders about the reason for announcing this list." The Hamas Movement has stated that the White House's announcement reflected U.S. partiality toward Israel.

American Arab and Islamic organizations have also expressed concern and fear that the civil liberties and political rights of American Arabs and Muslims will be violated by the U.S. security authorities if a bill prepared by President Clinton's Administration is passed by the U.S. Congress. Such a bill would give the U.S. security authorities permission to spy on the American Arabs. It would also grant them a wider scope to interpret any activity by members of the Arab and Islamic communities in the United States as "terrorist activity." The WASHINGTON JEWISH WEEK magazine says in its 15 December 1994 edition that the bill prepared by the State Department and sent to the Justice Department is similar, in many ways, to work schedules with the two Zionist organizations: the Anti-Defamation League and the American Jewish Committee. The bill includes an identification of terrorism as a federal crime.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has disclosed the U.S. Administration's plan to spy on the American Arabs, violating their civil rights and placing them under suspicion, on the pretext of combating terrorism and drug smuggling. In a speech he delivered at Harvard University last Friday, Christopher said that "the criminal international terrorists and drug smugglers were a direct threat to our people and our country's interests."

Christopher alluded to this plan for the first time, without giving any details, in a speech he delivered at Georgetown University on 24 October 1994, on the eve of his departure with President Clinton for the Middle East. The plan includes stringent regulations, heavier punishments, and stricter control on the issuance of entry visas to the United States. A senior State Department official said that the measures, which they would adopt in this regard, include monitoring and recording the telephone conversations of American Arabs. He claimed that this will be done without violating the restrictions imposed by the U.S. Supreme Court on such actions. In the seventies, the Supreme Court greatly restricted the ability of the executive and security authorities to monitor the telephones of American citizens and residents. However, American officials said that the U.S. Justice Department felt that there are ways to do this without violating the law.

The same official, who asked to remain anonymous, said that these measures were designed against the Hamas Movement and the other organizations that carry out activities the United States calls terrorist. He added that the State Department will submit the bill to Congress for discussion and approval. Christopher said that hearing sessions would be speeded up to expel illegal residents and adopt stringent criteria for granting entry visas. The United States will exert pressure on other states to agree to exchange criminals or bring to trial international fugitives and impose heavy sentences on them.

American analysts and sources wonder whether Clinton's order will produce the expected results. If it does, they ask, why didn't they issue it before? Why has Clinton waited until the fedayeen operation to issue his order? Analysts think that there is a relationship between the timing of the order and the campaign for Clinton's reelection. Just as he did in 1992, he is after the Jewish vote and money to win in the next elections. American officials admit that they have no information whether the 5,000 American banks and other financial institutions affected by the presidential order will find funds and accounts to freeze. They also cannot prove that all the individuals and groups mentioned in the White House list have used the United States to collect and transfer money. According to a report in THE NEW YORK TIMES on 26 January, American officials have said that some names on the list have never been accused of maintaining ties or contacts in the United States or having money in it. Among these names, the paper said, was Abu-al-'Abbas (Muhammad Zaydan). As for Abu-Nidal, the U.S. intelligence services say they do not know where his money comes from, and they do not know even where he lives now.

According to informed sources, the U.S. Justice Department's foreign assets control department, which supervises such matters, was among the departments the U.S. Congress intended to close down to reduce expenses. The Clinton Administration opposed such action. Therefore, what happened will ensure the continued existence of this department. [?Philip Hayman], former deputy justice secretary who resigned last year because he supported granting a pardon to the Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard, who is serving a life sentence, asks why the U.S. Administration has not confiscated the assets of these people. "If we knew before about the existence of financial assets in the United States, why have we not confiscated them a long time ago?" he asked.

The same sources, however, say that this issue was discussed and rejected during the Reagan and Bush

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Administrations in the eighties when American hostages were being held in Lebanon. The State Department then considered banning the flow of money from the United States to some Palestinian organizations and the Irish Republican Army, but these efforts were not successful. [?David Lung], who worked in the State Department's antiterrorism office, said that one of the problems that faced them 10 years ago was the fact that those who will be affected by such a decision will be the orphans and widows, and we could be challenged in court. However, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who seems, like his president, to be placing every egg in the Israeli and Jewish basket to maintain his position, has launched a crusade against all those who oppose peace with Israel. He placed the issue at the top of U.S. foreign policy, relying on Israeli intelligence reports and reports of American Jewish organizations in carrying out his crusade. On the basis of Israeli reports, even President Clinton has asked some Arab states to try to stop financial contributions to the Hamas Movement and other organizations. It is known that financial and benevolent contributions from the Gulf states go to social and educational institutions in the occupied territories. FBI agents have been trying to monitor the activities of the American Arabs and Muslims in New York, Washington, Chicago, Los Angeles, Detroit, and Dallas.

Israeli intelligence claims that about $17 million are collected in the United States for the organizations mentioned in the U.S. presidential order. Arab states send another $17 million. American and Jewish media have carried many fabricated reports in the past two years about the activities of the Islamic organizations in the United States, suggesting that they were directed against U.S. security. They did this to prepare the ground for any decision that would be made and carried out against those who oppose peace with Israel. The leader of the Jewish lobby in the Congress, [?Charles Choumer], Democrat, from New York, tried in 1993 to introduce a comprehensive identification in the anticrime bill to differentiate between a terrorist and a fighter for freedom. Of course, according to his identification, the fighters against the Israeli occupation are considered terrorists. This description was anchored in the bill that was issued last year after Clinton made vital concessions to the Republicans to get approval for it.

Khalil Jahshan, executive director of the National Association of American Arabs, says that following Christopher's speech last year, the Arab community, through its representatives, has told the White House, the StateDepartment, and the FBI that it is afraid the security authorities will violate the civil liberties of the American Arabs if such a bill was issued. We told them that the Arabs will face a defamation campaign that could affect the entire community, especially as the atmosphere is suitable by virtue of the campaign launched by Israel, the Jewish organizations, and the Israeli lobby in the United States in the past two years, before the World Trade Center explosion in February 1993.

Jahshan thinks the campaign the U.S. Administration is preparing to launch will be similar to the one the U.S. security authorities launched against Palestinian activities and sympathizers in the United States. These authorities spied on Palestinian and Arab activists and those who sympathized with them. They crowned this campaign with the closing of the Palestinian offices, foremost the Palestinian information office in Washington in 1987. They also tried to close the office of the PLO's UN mission in New York. The U.S. Congress is now dominated by the Republican Party, particularly by its rightist and more conservative wing. Some members of this wing are known to be hostile to immigrants, particularly non-European. If Congress approves the bill, the American Arab organizations are afraid that FBI agents will misuse the authority they will have under the new law against the Arab community and others. Jahshan says that, during their meetings with American officials, they drew their attention to the dangers that could result from this, noting that each case should be treated separately. If there was legal evidence and if U.S. laws were violated, the offenders can be taken to court.

A senior U.S. official said that the U.S. Administration will ask Congress to amend the immigration law to deprive any person suspected of a crime, even if he was not sentenced, from entering the United States. The Clinton Administration also wants the American law to cover terrorism and the financing of terrorists and their activities throughout the world.

Jahshan warned against press leaks and reports in the U.S. media whose source is the Israeli intelligence, the American Jewish organizations, and parties connected to them. He expects that the American Arab associations and activists in the civil rights movement will hold a meeting in the coming days to discuss the new measures and try to prevent any danger to the Arab and Islamic community. There are about 8 million Muslims in the United States.

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***Orthodox Church Said Conspiring Against Muslims**

95LA0138A Kuwait AL-MUJTAMA' in Arabic 14 Feb 95 pp 20-23

[Article by Muhammad al-'Abbasi: "The New International Orthodox Alliance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia, Greece, and Serbia are leading the political initiative to form a new Orthodox alliance.

The Serbian president and the Greek prime minister discussed the idea of establishing a Balkan Orthodox confederation.

Numerous contacts and urgent efforts are currently being undertaken on both the religious and political levels to achieve the dream of unification of the Orthodox churches under the banner of the Phanar [Turkish spelling is "Fener"] Greek Orthodox Church in Istanbul, which would be transformed into the Vatican of the Orthodox Christians, in preparation for taking Istanbul away from Turkey. This would constitute an act of historical revenge against the muslims, particularly after the West has failed to Hispanicize and Christianize the Turkish people after the fall of the Ottoman caliphate. They also have the dream of setting up an orthodox alliance that would stretch from the Balkans to Russia and would extend south to Egypt, Ethiopia, and Jerusalem. The success of such an alliance would depend on two basic formulas: 1) an alliance of nations possessing an Orthodox majority, led by the Russian Federation, which would constitute a power that could exercise military, political, and economic pressure and would have a role in the formulation of the new world order, and 2) popular and spiritual support rendered by the Orthodox Christians of other nations such as Egypt, Ethiopia, etc., which could be utilized as a means of putting pressure on those nations. In addition to this, they would have an Orthodox Vatican in Istanbul that would serve as their spiritual authority.

Movement Along Several Fronts

The religious movement is being led by the patriarch Bartholomeo I of the Phanar Greek Orthodox Church in Istanbul. He refused to cooperate with an investigation concerning his activities, which was ordered by the Turkish minister of interior [Nahid Mantshah?] last December, on the basis of a request submitted to the National Assembly by As'ad [Butun?], a representative of the Great Unity party [?] [na'ib hizb al-wahdah al-kabir]. He demanded that appropriate steps be taken against the patriarch who was behaving like a head of state, even though he is merely an official of the patriarchate.

The patriarch has been active on several fronts:

— 1. He has been active on the religious front by attempting to bring about the unification of the Orthodox churches under the banner of the Phanar Orthodox Church.

— 2. He has been active on the media front by attempting to get the international media to believe that the Greek Orthodox community is under pressure by the Turks and thus to bring up the issue of human rights and use this as a weapon against Turkey.

— 3. He has been active on the political front, but indirectly, by making efforts to open up a liaison office in the European Community and by using the name "Constantinople" when referring to his position when speaking to international political gatherings, as he did when speaking to the European Parliament. In spite of this, the patriarch denies that he is undertaking any activities that have political aims and maintains that his function is merely a religious function.

Patriarch Bartholomeo makes no attempt to hide his efforts to unify the Orthodox churches. Last January he told the British newspaper MANCHESTER GUARDIAN that the Syrian, Coptic, and Armenian churches should be unified since there are no reasons to maintain the fragmentation that exists between them and that the reasons for this fragmentation were really political and social in nature. He also said, in an interview with the Turkish newspaper MILLIYET on 23 December 1994, when commenting on the reasons for his initiative to unite the 250 million members of the Eastern [Orthodox] churches under the banner of the Phanar Church: "There is no political reason for this. It is merely a matter of organization." He also pointed out that the spiritual council, which met in Kadikoy, in the Istanbul area during the fifth [as published] century A.D., issued a recommendation to this effect.

He did not deny that Russia is behind what is being said concerning the establishment of an Orthodox alliance. But he considered that this is something that is impossible since such an alliance would have to take place in the framework of political and military terms.

The patriarch is undertaking insistent efforts to reopen the Orthodox seminary in Heybeli Ada, which was closed by the Turkish government in 1971. He also mentioned this both in interviews with the MANCHESTER GUARDIAN and with the Turkish press. He has sent many memorandums to the Turkish government and to international bodies, justifying this by saying that he is alarmed at the fact that so few new Orthodox church personnel are being trained to enable the church to continue its existence.

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Overcoming Obstacles

But these initiatives face obstacles from the Orthodox Christians themselves because of the desire to monopolize the spiritual leadership of the church. The eastern churches refuse to submit to domination by the Phanar Church, and the church in Jerusalem is carrying the banner of the opposition. Also, the church in Alexandria considers that it has the right to lead the Orthodox churches, and the Sofia Church has taken a frigid attitude toward the Phanar Church's attempts to undertake a political role. Only the churches of Russia and Greece support the Phanar Church, and they are doing so for political reasons. Athens feels that efforts should be undertaken to first create a spiritual foundation for the establishment of an Orthodox confederation. This policy could greatly benefit Greece if the spiritual dimension were exploited, and the Phanar Church could play a prominent role in this since it is the symbol of the Byzantine state. For this reason, the Turkish writer [Itunsh Altin?] feels that this can only by achieved by establishing an Orthodox Vatican within the walls of the Phanar Church, and this is what Greece is striving to do.

The United States and some other Western nations are also indirectly dealing with these initiatives due to political reasons. The Catholic Church is also considered to be one of the obstacles in the path of these Orthodox aspirations, even though there have occurred important developments toward achieving the unification of the Christian churches since the split between them that occurred in 1054 [A.D.]. Although positive results in this regard still have not been achieved, the fact that the dialogue between the churches is continuing is considered to be a positive factor. Furthermore, Bartholomeo will be visiting the Vatican next June in response to the visit of Pope John Paul II to the Phanar Church in 1979. Patriarch Dimitrius was the patriarch of the church at that time, and Bartholomeo was head of the clerical division. Definitely one aim of the visit will be to eliminate Catholic misunderstanding of the active Orthodox initiative, which harbors no hostile intentions toward the Catholics. [The Pope] has also visited Japan and Ethiopia.

The Media Initiative

One can follow Bartholomeo's media initiative by reading his complaint made to the editor of the MANCHESTER GUARDIAN. He complained about attacks by the Turkish media, its hostile attitude toward the church, and the fact that it was fanning the fires of religious warfare in the Balkans. He claimed that there were organized attacks and bombings mounted against the church and its properties. In his interview with MILLIYET, he accused the Front of the Fighters for the Liberation of the Great Islamic East of undertaking these attacks. In his interview with the MANCHESTER GUARDIAN, he said that the patriarchate's situation was getting steadily worse. He pointed out that 50 years ago there were 100,000 Greeks in Istanbul, whereas today there are only 4,000 of them, who are members of 10 Greek churches. He accused the nationalists and those whom he calls the "religious radicals" of being a barrier to the possibility of having the Christian minority in Turkey and the Muslim minority in Greece serve as a bridge to peace between the Christian and Islamic faiths. He said that he has extended his hand in an effort to help build this bridge between the two faiths, but that he has received no response, and stated that it is hard to cross the river because of nationalists and fanatics. He added that things were getting worse every day and "they do not let us even take the first step."

Consequently, Bartholomeo's accusations are being made against the Turkish people, media, and government. According to him, it is the media that is fanning the religious war! He says this in spite of the fact that the Turkish media is attacking only Islam and its followers. He also said that the Turkish government is responsible for the fact that Greeks have left the country to live abroad. Most of them have emigrated to the United States, and there they have formed a lobby that pressures [the U.S. Government to take stands] against Turkish interests and undertakes propaganda campaigns against [Turkey]. [They say] that the nationalists and Islamists have come to constitute a danger to the church, that they are preventing the establishment of a dialogue, that they are attacking the church with bombs, etc. [They also say] that these people's popularity is increasing and that if they consequently take over the government of Turkey, the certain result will be to turn the Christian world against Turkey. This type of vicious manipulation of the media is what will cut off any opportunity for the rapprochement that Bartholomeo wishes to see take place. Complaining to the media does no good. It only fans the fires of anger and fanaticism between the two sides, and these feelings will be transferred from the [Christian] minority to the [Muslim] majority, and any rapprochement will become impossible.

The Political Initiative

Observation shows that the political initiative undertaken by the patriarch of the Phanar Church has taken several directions. First of all, it has been undertaken by means of utilizing the media. He has directly exploited the media for his anti-Turkish campaign by claiming that the [Orthodox Church] has been subjected to at-

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tacks, that the Orthodox priests' seminary has been closed, and that the number of Greeks [in Turkey] has been steadily decreasing; and the aim of saying these things is to exercise strong political pressure on Turkey to compel it to do what he wishes to see take place, such as transforming the Phanar Church into an Orthodox Vatican—even though he [publicly] denies that this is his aim and considers that this is absurd. [He says that] even if Turkey itself would do this, he would not accept it since he only wishes to freely carry out his moral and spiritual mission!!

Although he always denies this and refuses to be associated with the political pressure exercised by Greece to achieve this aim, he cannot deny that it is his dream to see [the Greeks] regain Constantinople. This is something that can be clearly and unmistakably testified to by the fact that he used the name "Constantinople" when speaking to the European Parliament, and the use of this name has great political and historical significance.

He defended his use of this name when giving an interview to the newspaper MILLIYET, saying: "I didn't use this name when referring to the city, but rather when referring to the [Phanar] Church. I said 'the Church of Constantinople in Istanbul.'"

Naturally his usage of the name "Constantinople" when referring to the church has caused more accusations [to be brought against him]. The real meaning of the word was not lost on anybody. His remark that he used the word "Istanbul" to refer to the city was even more malicious. The word "Istanbul" exists in Greek, and it is pronounced "Istimpoli," which means "toward civilization." Consequently, he could have used the word "Constantinople" in its religious and political sense and "Istanbul" [in the form "Istimpoli"] to refer to "civilization"—a word that has a double meaning and can satisfy both parties. However, when he used the two words in association with each other, this can only have been said in the interests of the Orthodox Christians.

The patriarch has also undertaken insistent efforts to open a Phanar Church liaison office in the European Community. This is something that he did not deny in his interview with MILLIYET on 23 December 1994. He said that, before he left for Brussels, the deputy mayor of Istanbul demanded that he not open the office there, and that the matter was consequently dropped. But he said that such a liaison office for the Orthodox Church will be opened in the European Community because this is what the Orthodox Christians want. He said that he would not undertake any efforts to coordinate such an activity and mentioned that there [already] exist liaison offices of the Orthodox, Catholic, and Anglican churches in the European Community. He added that the Muslims also wish to see this take place and that he supports the idea because it would guarantee cooperation between Christians and Muslims. In general, the violent Turkish reaction to the idea that a Phanar Church liaison office would be opened in the European Community was the reason why Bartholomeo has temporarily retreated from this step. However, the effort itself is evidence of a political dimension that cannot be denied.

The Greek and Serbian Role in the Orthodox Alliance

As for the political initiative being undertaken among the Orthodox nations, this is something that has been confirmed by Alexis II, the Patriarch of Moscow. His view is that the Russian Federation, the seat of the largest Orthodox community in the world, began such an initiative after the collapse of the Soviet Union and after its people became interested in religion. He said that preparatory steps have been taken to have Russia make political use of its Orthodox religion, just as Czarist Russia did, and that this is why Boris Yeltsin, the president of Russia, attends all religious functions and celebrations.

Yeltsin has not concealed his aspiration to establish an Orthodox alliance that would be a substitute for the Warsaw Pact. This is why he is secretly working together with Greece to achieve this dream, and this is why a secret protocol between the two nations, containing secret clauses, has been signed. Naturally Greece will benefit the most from this arrangement because it will have relations with both sides—the Catholics via the European Community and NATO and the Orthodox Christians via the Phanar Church and the Orthodox alliance. This is also something that the president of Serbia, Slobodan Milosevic, has been working to achieve. He has brought up the idea of establishing an Orthodox alliance that would include the Balkan republics and link them to Russia, Georgia, Armenia, and Ukraine. This was discussed on 19 December 1994 with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou who, in a press conference which he held after the discussions, did not deny that this matter was broached. He called it "an astounding proposal," which he considered to be premature. But Milosevic said: "Such a confederation would be useful to everyone."

Milosevic had already brought up this proposal in 1993, during his meeting with Constantine Mitsotakis, the former Greek prime minister.

The Serbian plan calls for continuing to expel Muslims from the Balkans and ethnically assimilating those

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who would remain. Serbia would be in charge of the fate of Bosnia, northern Albania, and the "Sanjak" [a Turkish word meaning "province," in this case possibly referring to Serbia's Kosovo province, the population of which consists chiefly of Albanian Muslims]. Greece would be in charge of southern Albania, and would be supported in this effort by [southern Albania's] Orthodox population of Greek origin in order that a guerrilla war be waged against the Muslims. In the end, Albania would be divided up between the two nations—the northern part, along with Kosovo, would be absorbed into Serbia, and the southern part would go to Greece. Preparations are currently being undertaken to carry out this plan, because Greece has been carrying out regular military maneuvers along its border with Albania.

As for [the Republic of] Macedonia, Belgrade has proposed to Greece that Serbia be in charge of this matter. Serbia wants to bring Macedonia back into the Serbian fold under the name of "New Yugoslavia," which would include Serbia and Montenegro. Serbia might concede part of Macedonia to Bulgaria, which recognizes the Macedonians as an ethnic group, but not as a nation. This would allay the fears of the Greeks concerning the Greek province of Macedonia being stripped away and included in the [Republic of] Macedonia. This is why Greece refuses to recognize the Republic of Macedonia under the name "Macedonia." Then the more than 500,000 Turkish Muslims in Macedonia could be expelled, particularly since the Macedonian government, which is run by ethnic Macedonians, has already prepared a plan to do just that. Initially this plan would include undercounting the Muslims in the official census, even though the Turks point out that they constitute a greater percentage of the Macedonians. The census carried out in 1994 indicates that there are 33 ethnic groups in Macedonia, and that the total population is 2,075,196. Of this total, 1,378,787 are Macedonians, 478,967 are Albanians, and 181,615 are Turks. This means that the population includes 560,582 Muslims. Macedonia also has other ethnic groups.

Erdogan [Saraj?], the secretary general of the Turkish Democratic Party in Macedonia, criticized the census and election system that has the objective of excluding Muslims from the parliament and reducing the size of their community.

In general, the process of political restrictions, combined with acts of ethnic violence, is something that the Macedonians, in the final analysis, are making use of, and they are forcing the Albanians and Turks to emigrate to Turkey once again.

Bulgaria's Role in This Scenario

As for Bulgaria, the fact that the communists have recaptured the government will make matters easier for them, particularly since the appointment of [Ilcho?] Dimitrov, an enemy of the Muslims who, as minister of education in the eighties, waged a campaign of ethnic cleansing and forced assimilation against them. This was in spite of the fact that 25 percent of Bulgaria's population consists of Turks and in spite of the fact that widespread demonstrations were held and many signatures [on petitions] were gathered in protest of this appointment. But it was no use. Zhelyu Zhelev, the president of the republic, is alarmed about this appointment, which could lead to problems for Bulgaria abroad—problems that Bulgaria is not in need of at the present moment.

Furthermore, radical reforms are scheduled to take place in the Bulgarian army, the most important of which is that the army be a professional army—from the lowest-ranking soldier to the highest-ranking officer. They indicate that Muslim Turkish elements will be excluded, in order to guarantee that they not occupy leading command positions in the army and in order that they not receive high-level military training, which could be used against the Bulgarians in case any future clash with them occurs. This latter scenario is particularly possible because of the steady increase in the spirit of racism that is prevalent in Bulgaria. They do not wish to see a repeat of the Bosnian situation, since the Bosnians' resistance is attributable to the fact that they were vigorous participants in all the activities and centers of power of the former state of Yugoslavia.

The Scenario of Carrying Out the Plan

Generally speaking, Serbia will have the greatest role in carry out the process of ethnic cleansing, followed [in importance] by Greece in southern Albania and western Thrace, and finally there will be the role of Bulgaria in the process of expelling the Muslims from the Balkans. An Orthodox confederation will be created that will link the Balkan nations to Russia, which will support their efforts politically and militarily, if possible.

This scenario is not just a dream. It is a reality that exists in the secret portfolios of the intelligence agencies. It is currently being carried out, after people have been mentally conditioned to accept it. Of course, everything will be easy after they have finished with Bosnia. And what are we doing? Are we going to wait until the crisis occurs—under the pretext that this is just a dream that is difficult to execute? The lessons of history tell us that everything that has been achieved was initially just a dream. [The existence of] Israel is the best proof of

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this. Have we learned the lessons of history, or have we remained incapable of doing so?

Saudi Arabia

Iranian Pilgrims Hold Disavowal of Unbelievers Rally

LD0905171795 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Saudi Arabia, May 9, IRNA — The hajj rally, disavowal of the unbelievers, was held at 'Arafat Desert on Tuesday [9 May] after performing the mid-day prayers.

The pilgrims chanted, "Muslims, unite" [words indistinct], "Death to Israel."

In addition to Iranian pilgrims, a large number of foreign pilgrims took part in the hajj rally and voiced their disavowal of the unbelievers.

The hajj rally was due to be held in holy Mecca on Saturday, but, head of Iranian pilgrims, Mohammadi Reyshahri postponed it to avoid any desecration of the holy place as a result of possible police intervention.

Police had cordoned off the headquarters of Iranian pilgrims and deployed machineguns on the rooftops of the nearby buildings to prevent the pilgrims from holding the hajj rally.

The message of the leader of the Islamic revolution, Grand Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i was read by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati and the pilgims at the rally and a seven-point resolution was issued.

Rally Condemns U.S., Israel

LD0905174795 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The great political-ideological disavowal of polytheists ceremony was held at 'Arafat desert today, attended by masses of pilgrims to the holy house of God.

According to a Central News Unit report, at the ceremony, which in addition to Iranian pilgrims was also attended by a large number of foreign pilgrims, the participants shouted: God is Great, Muslims unite, death to America, and death to Israel. They also declared their hatred for polytheists and oppressors, particularly the United States.

At the ceremony, Ayatollah Jannati read out a message from His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, custodian of the order of the world Muslims, addressed to the pilgrims to the holy house of God. Then Mohammadi Reyshahri, representative of the supreme jurisconsult and supervisor of Iranian pilgrims, made a speech.

Referring to the glory and magnitude of the ceremony, he stressed the necessity for Muslims of the world to unite against world arrogance. He added: The disavowal of polytheists is the key to the problem of the Muslims. During the ceremony solutions should be found for the problems of the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine, Algeria, and other world Muslims.

The ceremony ended with a resolution, which reads: The disavowal of polytheists is inspired by the Koran and the Prophet's tradition. It stems from the spirit of hajj, which was revived and implemented following the orders of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, founder of the Islamic revolution, may God be satisfied with him, and its implementation continues under the banner of the successor to that great leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i.

The resolution emphasizes the resistance of the world Muslims in the struggle against the Zionist regime and U.S. hegemony. It states: Today when the world of Islam is the target of an all-around onslaught by world arrogance, particularly the United States and global Zionism, the revival, greatness, and glory of the Islamic peoples depends on resistance and perseverance by the world of Islam.

Despite great efforts, our colleagues who were sent to Saudi Arabia have so far not been able to send pictures of the disavowal of polytheists ceremony.

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Opposition National Congress Faces Financial Crisis

MM0905150595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 May 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Zuhayr Qusaybati: "'Suffocating' Financial Crisis in Iraqi National Congress"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum, member of the Presidential Council of the [Unified] Iraqi National Congress [UINC], has admitted that the congress is "suffering from a suffocating financial crisis," adding that the congress is also "facing a political dilemma." Meanwhile Hani al-Fakiki, deputy chairman of the Executive Council, said that "the congress is in an unenviable situation, and its problems cannot be solved just by making changes to its structure." AL-HAYAH has learned from reliable sources that the Kurdistan Democratic Party, led by Mas'ud Barzani, will send a delegation to Damascus soon to review new developments in North Iraq. A spokesman for the party did not rule out the delegation's visiting Syria. However, he said that no date has been fixed for it.

Bahr-al-'Ulum told AL-HAYAH that the congress is "currently facing a major political and financial dilemma, and it is not easy to rectify its position." He added that Ahmad al-Jalabi, chairman of the UINC Executive Council, is "the only one supervising spending on congress activities since its establishment, and no one can deny this. I have on several occasions asked him about the source of financing, and he replied that he spends money on these activities from some Iraqi donors, whose names he declined to reveal."

THE NEW YORK TIMES published a report on 11 April saying that the CIA had asked Congress to allocate funds to support parties in the Iraqi opposition and the "National Congress." The Executive Council of the congress denied "receiving any money from any U.S. quarter, any foreign state, or any Arab government." [passage omitted]

Paper Attacks Clinton Remarks at Jewish Congress

JN1005094595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 10 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 May (INA) — An Iraqi paper has said that U.S. President Bill Clinton has found no better way to win the trust of the highly-influential Zionist quarters in his country except to attack Iraq on the rostrum of the International Jewish Congress in New York.

In an article today, AL-THAWRAH says: This is a cheap attempt to soothe the Zionists, who see in Iraq a strategic danger threatening the Zionist schemes. That danger will continue to threaten Tel Aviv's schemes as long as Iraq remains an independent Arab country, enjoying free will and full sovereignty over its national soil, resources, and the components of power.

The paper stresses that the U.S. Administration has become a tool at the hands of world Zionism. The arrogance of this evil machine, the paper says, has gone too far and has started to belittle the intelligence of the people who may hear Clinton's nonsense from various media organs.

AL-THAWRAH wonders: What was it that came to Clinton's sick mind as he was courting the Jewish congress? Is it the law of the jungle, which gives the strong a free hand to do whatever it wants against whoever it pleases, whenever, and in whichever way it wants?

The paper adds: Supposedly, there is a body of international law that regulates relations among nations and peoples living on this planet. That law also governs states' relations and is based on justice and respect for the interests, sovereignty, and the right to self-determination for all states, big or small, from the north or south.

AL-THAWRAH says: If Clinton is claiming that Iraq is violating international law, then he is certainly lying. This is not because Iraq was the birthplace of the first law governing relations among people, but also because it has implemented unfair UN Security Council resolutions issued under direct U.S.-Zionist influence.

The paper adds: The early Iraqis helped in setting strong bases for mankind's progress and development and their grandchildren will adhere as strongly to their humanitarian civilized role, in spite of all the forces of evil and darkness.

Spokesman Condemns Turkish Contact With Kurds

JN0705121195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 7 May (INA) — Iraq has again condemned the Turkish authorities' hostile stands, including their dealings with the rebellious cliques in northern Iraq.

Commenting on news reports circulated on 2 May on the travel of a delegation representing Iraqi Kurds rebels to Ankara to obtain financial assistance from Turkey to maintain the rebellion and finance the armed gangs, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry told INA: We have denounced such anti-Iraq stands and warned the Turkish Government that dealing with the outlawed Iraqi Kurdish rebels constitutes an explicit recognition

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of them. We have also warned against extending money to them and dealing with them to implement suspect schemes against Iraq.

The spokesman deemed such contacts flagrant interference in Iraq's domestic affairs. He stressed that ending the abnormal situation in northern Iraq and spreading security and stability there can only be achieved through constructive cooperation with the legitimate Iraqi authorities.

Paper Says Turkey's Interests Require 'Sound' Ties

JN0705084095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0626 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 7 May (INA) — The Iraqi paper AL-THAWRAH has said that Turkey is mistaken if it believes that the abnormal situation created by the United States in northern Iraq will enable it to achieve certain gains or territorial ambitions at the expense of Iraq's unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

The paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says in an article today that this abnormal situation, the creation of which was contributed to by the Turkish Government, has encouraged outlaws to persist in rebellion and to spread instability not just in northern Iraq, but also inside Turkey itself.

The paper says that the Turkish president's statements as well as other statements circulated by the Turkish media on amending the border with Iraq are absolutely rejected by Iraq, which will spare no effort to resist and confront them. Such statements serve only to feed the fire of sedition ignited by the United States and world Zionism to increase tension and deterioration in that region.

The paper says that pursuing these serious and malicious schemes and policies concocted in U.S. and Zionist corridors will gravely harm the states neighboring Iraq. In fact, Iraq may be the least harmed because it knows how to confront those schemes and how to abort those criminal policies.

The paper says that Turkish interests necessitate the establishment of sound relations based on good-neighborliness and fruitful cooperation with Iraq, not the opposite. The paper says that these relations must be based on cooperation to remove the abnormal situation in northern Iraq, restore the Iraqi national authority, and halt collusion or coordination with the malicious U.S.-Zionist policy.

Daily: Turkish Officials Playing 'Dangerous Game'

JN0805174995 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0840 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 8 May (INA) — AL-QADISIYAH newspaper has said that the Turkish officials, who have violated the rights of a neighboring country, Iraq, that has close historical, religious, economic, and cultural ties with Turkey, do not realize they are playing a dangerous game and endangering the security of both Iraq and Turkey now and in the future.

The newspaper, which is involved with military affairs, adds in an article today that the Turkish officials, tempted by the abnormal situation in Iraq, have violated Iraq's sovereignty, invaded its northern area, attacked its citizens, acted as if they were in their own country, and as if Iraqi citizens were Turkish citizens. Moreover, they have announced through their president that they are thinking of how to modify the border between the two countries, ignoring the fact that they are violating the UN Charter, the international law, and all considerations of good neighborliness, history, and the mutual interests.

The newspaper adds: Although Iraq and many international parties have condemned and warned of their behavior, the Turkish officials continued their military operations, made false justifications and promises, announced unsubstantiated withdrawals, and contacted and struck suspected deals with rebel cliques in northern Iraq. They also pursued an opportunist policy without knowing they were registering serious precedents that may endanger future relations between the two countries.

The newspaper also says that the only justification the Turkish officials give for all these impertinent violations is that a number of the members of the Kurdish Workers Party in Turkey have established rear bases in northern Iraq to continue their military operations against Turkey and its institutions. The paper says that such a weak and void justification does not give Turkey the right to violate the sovereignty of a neighboring country.

The paper adds that regardless of all circumstances and pretexts, Turkey is responsible for its national security and for the motives of its Kurdish citizens in carrying out military operations inside and outside Turkey. Turkish officials know well that Iraq has nothing to do with this. Turkey's Kurds, the paper says, have been carrying out military operations for many years. The Armenians also carried out such operations before and along with the Kurds and that both the Kurds and Armenians have their own motives that have nothing to do with Iraq, which is eager to see security and stability in a neighboring country with which it has good

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and close relations for the benefit of both countries and nations.

AL-QADISIYAH holds the Turkish officials directly responsible. It says that their hostile statements reveal their bad intentions and suspect dual policy, which enabled the American and British aggressors and their allies to use Turkish territories and airspace to launch the criminal 30-state aggression on Iraq and violate Iraq's national sovereignty every day. That policy, the paper adds, also allowed these aggressors to impose an exclusion zone north of Parallel 36.

Concluding, the newspaper warns the Turkish officials of the dangers of their opportunist policy, which is destroying the bridges of confidence between the two nations, as well as a long history of good and growing relations.

Columnist Terms Turkey 'Sick Man,' Praises Saddam

JN0905182495 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 7 May 95 p 8

[Article by Husayn Al-Shahrbali: "The Sick Janissary"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The sick man [Turkey] has not recovered. His sickness appears to be chronic and has taken root deep in his black heart. So, time has not been able to heal the wounds. Neither good neighborliness, friendship and joint interests, good will toward neighbors, nor the Iraqi pipeline could ease his vileness because he still harbors bad intentions. [passage omitted]

But today is different from yesterday, yesterday is not tomorrow, and today's history is not like that of yesterday. The year 1534, in which the Ottomans occupied Iraq, is different from 1995. Now, humanity and the nations of the earth are praising Iraq, after they praise God.

O janissaries: In good will and to refresh your memory, we say:

This is the Iraq of Saddam Husayn, the strong Iraq, whose land, sky, water, and air are united.

These are living people, they include the Arabs, the Kurdish and Turkmen minorities, the Muslims, and the Christians in the northern, southern, eastern, and western parts of Iraq.

The Iraqi, who has appeared on the scene like a speeding missile, is carrying the signature of Saddam. [passage omitted]

O janissaries: You, as well as both friend and foe from your people, know and admit that each Iraqi is like Saddam Husayn and has strong links with him.

The name Saddam has shaken the United States. Fear God and do not dig the graves of your dead, do not be pawns in the hands of the Americans, and rest assured the slogan of the Iraqis is still: "We will cut off the hands of those who try to harm us."

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Rabin, Netanyahu on Fundamentalist Muslim Threat

TA0905170495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that while we mark the 50th anniversary of the victory over the Nazis, the world is turning deaf and blind when hundreds of thousands are being massacred. Speaking at a ceremony on the site of the eternal flame in the Knesset, the prime minister said there are signs in the Middle East that cause concern regarding the stability of peace. A wave of Islamic terror is sweeping through the region and an extremist country is trying to produce weapons of mass destruction, and finding those who will assist it.

Prime Minister Rabin called on the free world to join forces to prevent the creation of mass destruction weapons by unrestrained countries. We, he said, are worried and getting ready. At the end of his speech, the prime minister thanked the Jewish soldiers who fought in the allied armies in the name of the nation and country.

At the ceremony, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said that the prime minister and the government are right in warning in London, Paris, and Washington that mass destruction weapons must not reach the hands of Muslim fundamentalists. Had Hitler attained nuclear weapons, the world would have undergone a terrible change. Today, as then, there are not enough leaders who can realize just how grave this might be, Netanyahu warned.

Peres on Plan To Seize Land for Arab Apartments

TA0905152295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has revealed that there is a plan to seize land in the area of Sha'arey Mizrah in Jerusalem for the construction of apartment houses for Arab residents. This area is on Road No. 1 and is adjacent to French Hill. Minister Peres told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that this offer could be the right way to deal with the problems that emerged in view of the previous land expropriations. Peres stressed he does not doubt the data he was given by Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer.

IDF Closes Off 10,000 Dunams Near Hebron

TA1005072795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 May 95 p 1

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Over 10,000 dunams (2,500 acres) along the Green Line near Hebron were recently declared a closed firing zone by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

The Tarqumiyah Firing Zone is likely to become the next major land dispute between the government and Palestinians, according to a Palestinian Authority [PA] official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Area residents recently appealed to the PA to intervene and demand an explanation from the government for closing the area to Palestinian landowners.

The PA official said the order was still being studied, but it was believed to be part of Israeli plans to "move" the Green Line.

Civil Administration officials said allegations of political motives behind the order were without basis, as the area has been closed in the past.

The two-page army order, dated March 22 and issued two weeks ago, included a map of the closed area signed by OC [Officer in Command] Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran and a statement in Arabic giving the legal basis for the order.

The order was without a time limit. Residents said much smaller areas were closed in the past for a period of one to three months for IDF exercises.

The closed area is bordered on the east by the villages of Tarqumiyah, Bayt Awla, Haris and Nuba, and to the west by the Green Line near Bet Guvrin.

"No one is to enter the area, or stay in it, without permission from the army," the order states. However, "anyone living permanently in the area will not be evacuated."

Attorney Husni Abu-Husayn has been hired by leaders of several area villages to make a court appeal against the closure.

'Sha'ar Mizrah' Plan Meant To House Jews Not Arabs

TA1005104695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 May 95 pp A1, A10

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A new Jewish neighborhood that includes 400 housing units and a hotel will soon

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be established on the outskirts of the Armon Hanetziv neighborhood (east Talpiyyot) on dozens of dunams that are adjacent to and even part of the area of Jabal al-Mukabbir, which is located near Armon Hanetziv.

Deputy Mayor Shmu'el Me'ir presented the plan to National Religious Party Knesset members who toured East Jerusalem yesterday. Me'ir added that information regarding more Jewish neighborhoods slated to be established in East Jerusalem will be made public soon.

The aforementioned plan is an old plan which has not been implemented so far because of a controversy between the municipality and the contractor, Jacques Nasser, who wants a reduction in the land betterment tax paid for the land he owns in the area. The municipality has refused his request but is pressing him to start building in the area quickly.

Nasser purchased the land in the early seventies. The plan was approved by the local and regional committees during Teddy Kollek's tenure as mayor of Jerusalem. Building permits were also issued at the time.

Another plan under discussion between the Jerusalem Municipality, the Construction and Housing Ministry, and the Israel Lands Administration calls for confiscating 800 additional dunams between Pisgat Ze'ev and French Hill, with an eye toward establishing thousands of housing units for Jews. The purpose is to create continuity of Jewish construction between the two neighborhoods. The land involved is mostly Arab-owned, but in many cases ownership is unregistered.

Contacts between the Construction and Housing Ministry and the Jerusalem Municipality over the confiscation of this land have been greatly accelerated in the last few months as a result of pressure from Mayor Ehud Olmert and his deputy, Shmu'el Me'ir.

Contrary to what Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said yesterday, the plan, which is dubbed "Sha'ar Mizrah," is not aimed at establishing housing projects for Arabs but for Jews. The plan was conceived during Kollek's days to block both legal and illegal Arab construction in this area, defined by the planners as "construction endangering Jewish housing continuity between Pisgat Ze'ev and French Hill."

Among those pressuring to implement the plan are Pisgat Ze'ev neighborhood activists. All copies of the plan in the Jerusalem Municipality, the Construction and Housing Ministry, and the Israel Lands Administration note that the intention is to build a Jewish neighborhood in the area.

Olmert welcomed yesterday's proposal by the foreign minister for the confiscation of land from Arabs in order to build Arab neighborhoods. Olmert says this coincides with a recommendation submitted to him by the city engineer a week ago. At the same time, Olmert opposes Arab construction in the Sha'ar Mizrah area because of its proximity to Jewish neighborhoods. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 10 May includes an ITIM report on page 2, which adds: "Olmert emphasized that he and the Jerusalem Municipality team of experts assess that to overcome the problems related to high-rise building in the Arab sector, they must confiscate Arab-owned land in Arab neighborhoods in the city in order to build 'dense construction' on it for the Arab population. ["Olmert added that he will submit construction plans for some 15,000 housing units for Arabs, 8,000 of which have already been approved in various neighborhoods, such as Bayt Hanina, 'Isawiyah, Sur Bahir, and others."]

Peres, Officials Comment on U.S. Embassy Issue

NC0905163195 Paris AFP in English 1452 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, May 9 (AFP) — The Palestinians warned Tuesday [9 May] that Washington would forfeit its key role in the Middle East peace process if the US embassy is transferred to the disputed city of Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Re-location would be the first real international recognition of Jerusalem as the Jewish state's capital. Israel annexed the Arab eastern sector in 1967 and declared the city its united capital. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who is in the United States, has refused to be drawn into the debate.

And in Jerusalem, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres skirted the issue in parliament on Tuesday when right-wing opposition MPs demanded public support for Dole's move.

"We support the establishment of embassies in Jerusalem, but when and how does not depend on Israelis but on Americans," Peres said.

Parliamentary Likud Party leader Moshe Katzav said: "It would be unthinkable for us not to adopt a stance as courageous as American congressmen."

Israeli government spokesman Uri Dromi summed up Israel's embarrassment.

"We welcome this specific move but we want to make sure that it does not complicate things. We are a bit hesitant about the timing," Dromi told AFP.

"We need the support of the United States as a honest broker in the peace process," he admitted.

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"We see this as a purely internal American issue. We don't see it as appropriate to make further comments on this."

The issue has been raised at a time when the Palestinians have already been enraged by Israeli confiscation of more Arab land in east Jerusalem.

Arafat has won support across the Islamic world for an appeal to the United Nations to intervene and halt the expropriation of 53 hectares (131 acres).

But Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer announced the forthcoming confiscation of another 120 hectares (300 acres).

"This is a fight for the destiny of Jerusalem and no one can dictate to Israel what to do on its sovereign territory in Jerusalem," the minister said.

"30,000 homes will be built in Jerusalem over the next five years and land confiscations will be decided accordingly."

Rabin U.S. Trip Seen as 'Unnecessary,' 'Harmful'

TA0905115495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 May 95 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "The Traditional Spring Trip"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington — Now that the prime minister's visit to Washington is over it transpires that there was nothing on the agenda of the peace talks and Israeli-U.S. relations to justify the traditional spring trip to the United States. The visit showed that Yitzhaq Rabin's opinion about Bob Dole's bill to relocate the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem is irrelevant, which made the trip not just unnecessary but also harmful. The Israeli prime minister is going back to Israel with an extraneous object he did not want at all stuck to the peace process. He wasted a rare joint appearance with the U.S. President at AIPAC's [American Israel Public Affairs Committee] annual conference on empty niceties. His message recalled "The Third Way" more than it did the way he chose to tread in September 1993.

Highly reliable sources familiar with the intricacies of the negotiations with Syria say they have been stuck in the same place for over a year. Rabin did not come to ask Clinton to put forth bridging proposals or to urge Congress to send more tempting signals to al-Asad than those Damascus has been receiving since the 1994 elections, whereas the issue of the Arrow project and compensation for the sale of weapons to the Arabs were concluded even before the prime minister left on his way.

This is not the first time that Israeli leaders have wasted the precious time of presidents because they are in town to attend a conference of Jewish functionaries and just want to pop in to say hello. If it does not promote the interests of the two countries, another session in the White House cannot harm the interests of the two politicians. Headlines about a (recycled) promise received from the U.S. President to uphold Israel's qualitative edge can refresh the support of Israelis (and Arabs) for a compromise.

American politicians have for years regarded a photo opportunity with the head of the Jewish state as a foolproof formula for loosening the pockets of the tycoons in the richest community in the United States. Through the years, administration and congressional leaders have learned that the Jewish establishment in America, particularly the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish American Organizations and AIPAC, the strong pro-Israeli lobby, represent the policy of Israeli governments. They assume that whatever is good for the Jews is good for the Israelis, and vice versa. When AIPAC urges Congress to go tough on Iran, it safely assumes that Israel is behind it.

If Rabin bothers to attend its annual conference at a time when AIPAC is lobbying for a change in U.S. policy regarding the status of Jerusalem, one can assume that the prime minister approves of the move even if the administration cautions against its negative effect on the peace process. Moreover, AIPAC leaders claim that during a visit to Jerusalem three months ago they asked the prime minister for his opinion about the initiative to relocate the embassy to Jerusalem, and Rabin did not suggest any opposition whatsoever. In March 1993 senators signed a letter to the U.S. secretary of state demanding a commitment to relocate the embassy to the capital by May 1999. The initiator of the letter, Senator Alfonse D'Amato from New York, forewarned the Clinton Administration that in the absence of a satisfactory reaction he would translate the letter into legislation.

The day he landed in Washington Rabin clearly fell into a trap. The administration, which failed to curb the legislation, asked him to do the dirty work among the Jews lest the peace process is harmed. His aides warned Rabin not to offer the Jerusalem law to the right wing on a platter lest he harm his political stature. They realized that Senator Dole was determined to steal the show from Clinton at the AIPAC conference.

When asked what he thinks about relocating the embassy to the capital, Rabin recounts his meeting with Gerald Ford shortly before he entered the White House. When he asked him about his promise on the eve of the

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presidential elections, Ford replied that "life looks different from the Oval Office." It seems that Rabin refuses to acknowledge the magnitude of the reversal in Washington. When Ford promised to relocate the embassy he was the leader of the old-time Republican minority in the House of Representatives. Dole is an aggressive Republican leader at a time when at the Oval Office sits a Democratic President whom he aspires to replace. Dole could not care less about the peace process now. He cares ten times more about the $2 million that the supporters of D'Amato (Dole's campaign chief) will pour into the election campaign's coffers than about the denunciations by the PLO and the Arab League. As far as he is concerned, the relocation of the embassy to Jerusalem can be financed by the $100 million that the United States pledged to the residents of Gaza.

Aid to the Palestinians does not guarantee political gains to the U.S. presidential candidate. Nevertheless, it was Clinton who urged AIPAC activists not to suffice with helping Israel but to stand by him in his fight against the isolationists who are seeking to cut back aid to all the participants in the peace process. Rabin forgot to talk about the importance of aiding the Palestinians and replaced a message about the need for a compromise with Syria with an ovation-evoking statement about our united eternal capital. Before he began his speech Clinton joked that he did not know whether the cheers from the audience about "four more years" were directed at him or at the prime minister. Rabin was reminiscent of an American politician who came to get four more years in the White House.

Rabin Accepts U.S. Bridging Proposal on Syria Track

TA1005111495 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 May 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef in Washington and Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] For the first time since the talks between Israel and Syria started, the U.S. Administration will present its own proposals to bridge the gaps between the parties.

In his conversation with President Clinton, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin agreed to a U.S. bridging proposal drafted by the administration in an effort to allow the officers talks to resume.

Clinton will relay the proposal to Syria via Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' during his official visit to Washington next week.

It has been learned that the document, drafted by the U.S. peace team, mainly deals with the issue of equality [shivyoniyut] between the forces of each country after the agreement is signed. The Americans suggest that the parties settle for a formula stating that both sides agree that "the security arrangements will be based on parity and reciprocity [shivyon vehadadiyut], but geographic conditions will have to be taken into account during the discussions."

The Americans also suggest that the officers talks resume to discuss issues on which the disagreements are smaller, such as the need for early warnings against a surprise attack; the presence of Israeli officers at warning stations on the Golan and of Syrian officers at Galilee warning stations; the definition of the technical means that would help prevent sudden attacks; the establishment of appropriate channels of communication between the armies to prevent flare-ups along the border; and mutual recognition of security needs.

As far as is known, the U.S. proposal does not mention the Israeli demand for a reduction in the size of the Syrian Army and does not contain a comprehensive discussion of the width of the demilitarized and thinned-out zones.

Washington sources reported that Clinton will warn the Syrians that a refusal to discuss the draft might cause a long break in the peace process. [passage omitted]

Talks With Syrian Ambassador To Resume 'This Week'

TA1005043895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 10 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The talks between the Israeli and Syrian ambassadors will resume this week. The Syrian foreign minister will apparently go to Washington next week, while Secretary of State Warren Christopher will set out on yet another Middle East shuttle mission in late May. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz notes that this transpired from a report received in Jerusalem from Washington.

IDF Official at Knesset Committee on PA, Syria

TA0905144395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Uri Sagi, head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch, said today that the Palestinians say and feel that Israel has grossly violated the agreement with them by deciding to seize lands in Jerusalem. He believes, however, that the Palestinians will not halt the peace process, but will attempt to score gains on the ground. Sagi was speaking to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

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Our correspondent Yo'el Nir notes that Gen. Sagi did not mention his expected retirement.

The Intelligence Branch chief noted that the Palestinian Authority [PA] is conducting negotiations with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad aimed at convincing the organizations to avoid conducting terror activities from inside the autonomy for three to six months, but no agreement has yet been made. The terror organizations in the territories tend to agree, but their leaderships outside oppose this.

Gen. Sagi added that anyone believing that a new Middle East will emerge before final agreements are signed with the Palestinians and the Syrians is wrong and misleading others. As for the negotiations with Syria, Sagi said that we are discussing general issues only, and the Syrians have not yet explicitly heard of Israel's line of withdrawal.

As for the U.S. embargo on Iran, Sagi estimated that it could yield results in the long run.

Knesset Debates Golan Withdrawal, Jerusalem Issue

TA0905160995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Knesset held a special session today on a number of issues, including Jerusalem and the future of the Golan Heights. On the Golan, Foreign Minister Peres Israel is not threatened by a Syrian invasion. On the issue of Jerusalem, Police Minister Moshe Shahal said only Israel will determine where its capital is. David Ze'ev has details:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] Police Minister Moshe Shahal told the special Knesset session the current Israeli Government does not believe that anyone else will determine where the Israeli capital is, and does not need authorization to know that Jerusalem is our capital. It is not the world which will determine for us, said the police minister. I wish to make it clear that Jerusalem will remain united under Israeli sovereignty. As the equality of the Arabs in Jerusalem is ensured, and equal religious rights are preserved, so too, he said, will the city remain united.

Knesset Member Yehoshu'a Matza of the Likud ridiculed Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's reaction to the congressional legislation on moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. Said Matza: If Rabin says the embassy issue is their problem, then Rabin is Israel's problem.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres responded to motions on the negotiations with Syria. Peres predicted that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will wait another two or three years, when his tanks and air force jets will become outmoded. Billions of dollars will be required, and there will be no one to replace them for him. Peres said Syria will not be able to invade Israel, a reference to the argument over the strategic importance of the Golan Heights. The foreign minister said the real threat is from the nuclear buildup of Iran and the fundamentalists. And in an attack on the Likud, Peres said Syrian President al-Asad had made an historic, fundamental mistake. Had he come together with Egypt's Anwar al- Sadat, Peres said, the late Likud Prime Minister Menahem Begin would have given him all of the Golan, just as al-Sadat was given all of the Sinai. [end recording]

Number of Palestinians Killed by Security Falls

TA0905130095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 May 95 p A4

[Report by Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the year since the signing of the Oslo agreement and the establishment of the autonomy in Gaza and Jericho, the number of Palestinians killed in the territories by Israeli security forces fire has declined significantly. In the Gaza Strip, which was handed over to the Palestinians almost in its entirety, a 90-percent drop was registered. In the West Bank, there was a 30-percent drop. This data was provided by the Peace Watch organization which monitors the implementation of the Israel-PLO agreements.

The organization found that during the last year, 38 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank, compared with 55 in the previous year (between May 1993 and April 1994) and 69 in the year before that. In the Gaza Strip, eight Palestinians were killed by the Israeli security forces' fire, while 78 were killed in each of the two preceding years.

The figures are based on official IDF [Israel Defense Forces] data.

Missiles Stolen From Army Base in Jordan Valley

TA1005050395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 10 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seven armed antitank Dragon missiles were stolen from an army base in the Jordan Valley yesterday. The theft was discovered by soldiers who found a breach in the fence surrounding their base. A Qol Yisra'el report says the army fears the theft was carried out by Palestinian militants.

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Al-Kabariti Details Protest Message to Israel

JN1005074695 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 10 May 95 pp 1, 17

[Report by 'Umar Kallab and Nabil Ghayshan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a telephone conversation with AL-ASWAQ, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has divulged the content of the Jordanian message of protest which Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, Jordan's ambassador to Israel, conveyed during his meeting with Yosi Beilin, Israel's deputy foreign minister.

Al-Kabariti said: We have sent a clear message to express the Jordanian position over the measures to expropriate lands in holy Jerusalem. The message outlines our clear Jordanian position on the holy city, for which the Hashemites are still responsible.

He added that such Israeli measures cause embarrassment to all supporters of the peace process and threaten the entire process.

Reacting to reports by foreign news agencies and Israeli Television that Jordan intends to withdraw its ambassador to Israel, Minister al-Kabariti said: We have sent a strongly worded message. In that message, we set forth our historic position; a position from which we will not deviate. We said that such an issue is a sensitive one and these measures threaten the peace process, cause embarrassment to the Jordanian position, and violate the spirit of the peace process. However, it is not necessary to withdraw our ambassador. [passage omitted]

Daily Calls U.S. Embassy Transfer 'Blow' to Peace

JN1005095695 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 May 95 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "A Blow to the Stumbling Peace Process"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Congress' Republican majority leader intends to present a draft bill calling for the transfer of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. This will deal an unexpected and possibly a fatal blow to the peace process, which is already facing countless difficulties.

Knowing that the White House is not behind this draft bill, which seeks to secure Jewish votes during the U.S. domestic election campaign, we realize that the complications of this reckless U.S. step will have grave consequences not only on the fragile peace process but also on the United States' image and future role in this part of the world.

What is more, it is exactly this sort of provocative step — which is humiliating to every Arab and Muslim — that could be used as a pretext for a flare up of extremist violence in the Middle East and the region, which could poison the atmosphere in the region and even the world, especially as this U.S. step shows great disdain for the feelings of hundreds of millions of Arabs and Muslims.

While we hope that the domestic political considerations in the United States and Israel will not lead to the demolition of the temple on everyone's head, we hope that the U.S. and Israeli Governments will expedite the removal of obstacles preventing the completion of the peace process — a process that seems to have entered a feverish race against a band of enemies laying in wait for it, especially in the Congress and the Knesset.

Al-Kabariti Discusses Detainees With Iraq's al-Sahhaf

JN0905153895 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti received Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf today. They discussed bilateral relations and efforts being made within the framework of international legitimacy to implement the UN Security Council resolutions.

Al-Kabariti also discussed with al-Sahhaf the issue of the Jordanian detainees and prisoners in Iraq, of whom there are more than 700.

The issue of Jordanian detainees had earlier been discussed during al-Kabariti's meeting with the House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee. The committee called on the government to double its efforts to help detainees and prisoners in many states in a way that does not contravene the laws of these states.

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Buwayz Condemns U.S. Embassy Move to Jerusalem

NC1005051795 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has condemned the possibility of moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem because it is bound to undermine the peace march.

Buwayz remarked that the issue is an attempt to impose a fait accompli to halt the peace negotiations that seek a solution to the problem of the city of Jerusalem. He added that this will harm the credibility of the peace negotiations.

Reactions to Embargo Called 'Direct Defiance' to U.S.

NC0905111695 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 3 May 95 p 1

[Article by Muhammad Mashmushi: "Implement, Then Object, Or Else!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The decision by several states, including France, most of the states of the EU, Australia, and Malaysia, not to conform with Washington's decision to expand the embargo on Iran to include trade and investment is a sign that these states have moved from timid defiance of the role of the United States as a "world leader" to open and direct defiance.

Some states have attributed this rejection to the scope of trade and interests between them and Iran, as Australia has stated publicly and France indirectly. But the background to this rejection is political, namely, that these states resent the role of the sole superpower that the Clinton administration has been playing without taking the trouble to consult them, especially its so-called allies.

Perhaps this is the background we must discuss, whether or not these states speak publicly and regardless of the reasons given by Clinton to justify his decision to expand the embargo against Iran, including the theory of "terrorism" peddled by Washington as a slogan for its numerous wars here and there. While this slogan was a subject of debate and was questioned by several states before the Oklahoma explosion, afterward it became clear that terrorism is not necessarily external and is not directed against the Americans alone, but can be internal and can be exported by the "Michigan Militia" and other extremist groups abroad. This makes us smile, if not laugh.

More than that, the Americans, including Clinton, after Oklahoma, began to publicly suggest these possibilities. But they have not bothered to think that others in Europe or in Australia, never mind Russia, China, and Japan, may in turn raise the same possibilities in the face of Washington's request to them to punish Iran and to continue to punish Lebanon, Iraq, and Libya, as is happening now, because of the theory of terrorism.

Why? Because the concept of the "sole superpower" pursued by the Clinton administration since the Cold War and the Gulf war is by and large no different from the concepts and actions of the dictatorial regimes. Washington has described these regimes as enemy number two after terrorism and has declared a U.S. and UN war of sanctions against them. According to this administration, no one has the right to ask, but must only conform and implement when a hegemonic order is issued by the White House regarding any affair after these two wars.

The situation was not the same under previous administrations. The administration of former President George Bush would push the sanctions, even if for the sake of camouflage, through the door of the UN Security Council or the UN General Assembly. Previously, consultation or at least modesty and timidity offered justification for the so-called allies, although they know every well that the concept of alliance conflicts with the concept of toeing the line of the sole superpower and its decisions to the end.

But the recent decision to penalize Iran lacks even this degree of modesty, perhaps because of the interests that link these states with Iran. The "soldiers" have refused to follow the "commander" to war without asking questions. We wonder whether the "commander" will try to apply the rules of war that permit him to open fire on stragglers or those who question or object before implementing something.

'Enemy' Israeli Gunboats Chase Fishing Boats

NC0905175995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As part of the naval blockade of the southern coast, at dawn today Israeli enemy gunboats chased 13 fishing boats near the Tyre shore and forced them to return to port. An enemy gunboat indiscriminately fired at the beach north of Jall al-Bahr Port. Committees of the Council of the South continue to pay financial compensation to fishermen in Tyre, Sidon, and al-Sarafand. Every fisherman has received 300,000 Lebanese pounds.

Meanwhile, resistance snipers shot a member of the Lahd militias [South Lebanese Army] at al-Suwayda' post.

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A correspondent for the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY reports that an artillery exchange took place today after enemy forces shelled Jabal al-Dah. and the environs of Qilyah and Dallafah. The resistance bombarded the Kawkaba sector.

The Islamic Resistance announced the martyrdom of Hamzah Isma'il Fayyad and 'Isa Kamal Qutaysh in an operation in al-Ahmadiyah.

Israeli reconnaissance planes continued to fly over Lebanese airspace, reaching deep into Beirut skies and breaking the sound barrier at low altitude.

Cargo Ship Detained Near Tyre

NC1005060695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation forces shelled Iqlim al-Tuffah with 155-mm artillery last night. The Islamic Resistance announced that it shelled troop concentrations of the enemy and his agents in the Humayd and al-Qawzah hills, inflicting casualties.

An Israeli gunboat detained a civilian cargo ship yesterday while it was preparing to dock at Tyre Port. The gunboat fired several warning shots to force the ship to stop and then subjected it to a careful search.

Islamic Resistance Attacks SLA al-Ahmadiyah Post

NC0905071795 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 0530 today Islamic Resistance groups used rockets and machine guns to attack the [South Lebanese Army, SLA] post in al-Ahmadiyah in western al-Biqa', inflicting human and equipment losses on the enemy. The enemy retaliated by shelling Dallafah and Qilya with 155-mm shells. The enemy also shelled Hill No. 910 in (al-Saylabah).

The fire support unit of the Islamic Resistance responded to the attacks to silence the sources of enemy fire.

SLA Says Two 'Saboteurs' Killed in Clash

NC0905101295 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0930 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] South Lebanese Army [SLA] troops manning the Kawkaba position killed two saboteurs during a clash with a group of saboteurs this morning. Hizballah's mouthpiece, the Voice of Light radio, admitted the deaths of 'Isa Kamal Qutaysh, a native of Hula, and Hamzah Isma'il Fayyad, from Majdal Zun. The radio said they will be buried this afternoon.

Abu-Nidal Arms Cache Seized From Nursery School

NC0805195895 Paris AFP in English 1528 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, May 8 (AFP) — Lebanese police have seized heavy and medium calibre weapons hidden in a nursery school run by Abu-Nidal's radical Palestinian Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), officials said Monday [8 May].

The weapons, some of which were new, were concealed in the cavity of a fake wall in the village of Jalala, in the Syrian-controlled al-Biqa' valley, around 40 kilometers (25 miles) east of Beirut, officials said.

Two caretakers were arrested after the weapons were found on Sunday during a police search in the latest blow to the FRC, they said.

On April 28 police arrested FRC official Muhammad Rawhi Salih in the south Lebanon port of Sidon, during a raid on his house in which his wife was killed in a shootout between security forces and Salih's bodyguards.

Two months earlier the head of the FRC's special operations, Mahmud Khalid 'Ayntur, was arrested in the al-Biqa' Valley.

The FRC, led by Palestinian extremist leader Sabri al-Banna, better known as Abu-Nidal, is opposed to Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasir 'Arafat.

The group still has offices in Lebanon but has been barred from Syria since 1987 at the request of the United States, which has linked it to several anti-Western and anti-Israeli attacks.

Last year a Lebanese court sentenced six FRC members to life imprisonment for the murder in Beirut of a Jordanian diplomat.

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Radio: No Impact on Peace From Rabin's U.S. Visit

JN0905150595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The talks held by the Israeli prime minister with U.S. officials did not yield any results that could promote the Middle East peace process. The ideas which Yitzhaq Rabin said he will discuss with President Clinton about ways to activate the Syrian-Israeli track did not address the essence of the problem. These ideas dealt with some procedural aspects, as the statements made by Rabin himself indicate. The Israeli prime minister said he will not reveal the depth of the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, as Syria demands.

While the region and the world were waiting for a positive stance on the part of Israel in the wake of Rabin's talks with U.S. officials — a stance that could revive hopes for advancing the peace process — everybody was surprised to find that what preoccupies the Jewish lobby in the United States and the Congress is the transfer of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem. The move is intended to signal recognition of the holy city as the capital of Israel and to acknowledge Israel's expansionist ambitions in it, contrary to all Security Council resolutions and the principles and charters of the international community and the Geneva Conventions.

After his talks with Rabin, Robert Dole, leader of the Republican majority in the Congress, said he will work to pass a bill by Congress to transfer the embassy to Jerusalem. This step comes after the Israeli Government has expropriated hundreds of hectares of land owned by Palestinian citizens in Jerusalem to promote Jewish settlement activity and build more houses for settlers. The purpose of this is to change the demographic structure of the holy city, Judaize it, and make this an accomplished fact in front of the whole world.

Israel's peace claims lack credibility. Israeli practices on the ground contradict peace and its principles. Syria has offered everything possible to make the Middle East peace process succeed. It has strongly supported the sincere U.S. efforts and repeatedly saved the peace process from collapse. Syria has not asked the U.S. Administration for anything more than a fair position that is in harmony with the resolutions of international legitimacy. It has only asked for restoring its occupied territory, ending the aggression that has been committed against the Golan since 1967, and implementing the Security Council resolutions. These resolutions do not permit occupation and changing the features of the occupied territories. They also call on Israel to withdraw its troops to the 4 June 1967 lines. This Syrian position is fixed and will not change, regardless of what Administration is in Washington and what Government is in Israel.

Peace in the Middle East can only be established on justice and right. If the international peace efforts abandon justice and right, then these efforts will not achieve peace. Also, if the influential international parties appease Israel and condone its ambitions and schemes, then the situation in the Middle East will get more complicated and this will frustrate the hopes of the region and the world for a stable, just, and comprehensive peace that guarantees the security, dignity and rights of all parties.

Power Supply Issue Discussed With Lebanon

JN0705192395 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 14 Apr 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus (SANA) — The Syrian side headed by Electricity Minister Munib Sa'im al-Dahr and the Lebanese side headed by Minister of Water Resources and Electricity Ilyas Hubayqah held a session of talks here yesterday during which they discussed supplying fraternal Lebanon with electricity power from the Syrian national grid.

The two sides agreed to carry out further studies on the subject in order to supply Lebanon at least 50 megawatts by 1 June 1995. The two sides will study the possibility of increasing this quantity according to future technical capabilities.

The two sides also approved a contract to supply the Lebanese village of al-Tufayl on the border between the two fraternal countries with electricity from the Syrian national grid.

The Lebanese minister, who was accompanied by a technical delegation, arrived in Damascus yesterday morning. He was met at the Syrian-Lebanese border post by Electricity Minister Munib Sa'im al-Dahr, the assistant minister of electricity, and the general directors of the State Organization for Power Generation and Transmission and the State Organization for Power Distribution and Exploitation.

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India

Defense Debate Addresses Prithvi, U.S. 'Pressure'

BK1005055295 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 May 95 p 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, May 9. Prithvi will not be capped, Union minister of state for defense S. Mallikarjun said today, adding there "was no question of yielding to pressure from any country, when the security of the country was at stake."

The minister said this while intervening in a debate on the demands for grants for the ministry of defense in the Lok Sabha. He was responding to Communist Party of India (CPI) leader Indrajit Gupta's statement, who had drawn the attention of the House to the US assistant defense secretary saying that Prithvi was in a state of "hibernation" and Agni in a state of "suspended animation."

Mr. Mallikarjun clarified that Prithvi, which had been successfully tested, was not in a state of hibernation. On the progress of Agni, he said it was a "technological demonstration."

When Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Major-General BC Khanduri asked him to explain the phrase, the minister's reply was cryptic: "As a general when you go to war, you do not reveal your entire war strategy. There is no need to reveal our strategy."

The minister also told the Lok Sabha that in this year's allocations for the defence ministry, the focus was on the Navy, whose share was up by 44 per cent.

Listing the acquisitions and upgradations that the government was planning for the Navy, he said negotiations for six frigates from Russia were on and HAL would be supplying 10 Dornier aircraft. Three missile frigates and three Godavari-type missile boats were being built indigenously, while the Sea Harriers and the air to-surface missile upgraded.

The government has drawn up a 10-year self-reliance plan for the armed forces, the minister said, adding by 200s, 70 percent of the country's defence requirements would be met domestically. In this, he said, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was playing a vital role.

Earlier, participating in the discussion Mr Indrajit Gupta cautioned the government not to buckle under pressure from the US in regard to its missile programme. he said it was no secret that the US had conveyed to India "it has to go this far and no further"

Mr. Gupta said although the Prime Minister had clarified that India would not succumb to pressure by any foreign country, recent observations by the US assistant defence secretary that Prithivi was in state of hibernation and "Agni" in suspended animation could not be dismissed out of hand.

He said Mr. Mallikarjun had stated that India had completed user trials and was going to start serial production. He wondered whether the house should be taken into confidence about the country's missile progrmme.

The CPI leader appealed to the Prime Minister that before May 12 Parliament should pass a unanimous resolution on India's stand on NPI. This demand was voiced yesterday by members from both sides.

Making a strong plea for the setting up of the national security council he said this would ensure direct role of the services chiefs in regard to defence planning. "The prime minister has justified the retention of the defence portfolio with himself. I have no objection to it provided he has the time to attend to complicated defence matters. In such a situation, at least to advise him he needs the national security council."

Samata party leader George Fernandes alleged that corruption in the Army was on the increase. He mentioned the case of L.S.S. Chauhan who was court marshalled for highlighting the "misdeeds of his superiors." He wanted the government to make a statement about it on the floor of the House.

Maj-Gen R.G. William (retd.) a nominated member, said the 1995-96 defence budget did not show any increase at all if one took into account the 11 percent rate of inflation. He said the equipment available with the army was over 25 year old and thus need immediate replacement.

Maj-Gen (retd.) B.C. Khanduri (BJP) decried the "policy of adhocism" in defence matters and wanted to know when the last threat assessment was conducted. He pleaded for a fairer deal to both ex-servicemen and those serving in the armed forces.

Mr. Jagart Vir Singh Drona (BJP) said it was a pity that the Army had lost respect in the eyes of the civilians and the younger generation. he said the Army had to be strengthened if the threat posed by Pakistan had to be effectively met.

Editorial Urges Prithvi Deployment

BK0705124395 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 5 May 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Deploy the Prithvi Missile"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Only a few days ago the prime minister assured that in spite of external pressures our

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security interest would not be allowed to be damaged and that there was no question of deferring our missile program. Now the parliamentary committee constituted to oversee defense demands has recommended the immediate deployment of the 'Prithvi' missile. 'Prithvi' has successfully undergone all tests, and even our Army has test-fired it to its satisfaction. However, even after a year of all these tests the missile has neither been delivered to our Army nor has its formal production begun. Although the government has not made any categorical statement regarding this delay, everyone is aware that the main reason for deferring the deployment of the missile is the constant U.S. pressure. Last month a U.S. spokesman claimed before a U.S. committee that because of the U.S. insistence the Government of India had decided to defer 'Prithvi' deployment. Since the multiparty parliamentary committee finds the delay in Prithvi's deployment and the government's silence about it quite mysterious, it has reminded the government that its foremost duty is to ensure country's defense against any possible foreign aggression, and no political prejudice or prediction could be produced as a pretext to shy away from discharging this foremost duty. Had there been no external danger or had our potential enemy not been equipped with the latest missile-launching system the possible argument could have been that there was no urgency in deploying our Prithvi and Agni missiles. However, as the parliamentary committee has warned and as the government itself admitted, since Pakistan has not only manufactured missiles like Hatf-1 and Hatf-2 but has also deployed them strategically quite close to the Indian border, our missiles should also be deployed immediately. These Pakistani missiles have a striking range of up to 150 km. More serious is the information that Pakistan has acquired from China M-11 missiles whose striking range is still greater, and they can also launch atomic weapons.

The apparent reason for not deploying the missiles manufactured after thousands of years [as published] of our scientists' and technicians' toil and research costing us millions of rupees is the helplessness of the Government of India to keep the United States in good humor and not antagonize it in any way. The government is conscious that should it allow our missile-launching system to reach its logical conclusion, this decision is likely to stall the flow of the Western capital and ruin economic relations with the United States. The U.S. Administration is bent upon extracting a heavy price from India in the form of disarming it forcibly in return for the capital it is allotting for investment in Indian projects. To achieve this goal all sorts of pretexts are being used. Efforts are on to fetter India by the unilateral instructions under the pretexts of regional peace, the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, and the missile control regime; although the United States itself is not prepared to allow any such fetters on its actions, it never makes any serious attempt to impose any such restrictions on India's neighbors who pose an unconcealed threat to India's security. It is true that for long-term gains one has to sacrifice the short-term advantages. However, the experience of recent years has taught us that there are no immediate gains in the matter of defense, nor does overlooking our defense needs serve any long term interest, either. The peace that is bought by surrendering arms surely starts with slavery. It is, therefore, absolutely essential that deeming the advice of the parliamentary committee to be the consensus opinion of the entire nation, the government must act on it and also restart the Agni missile program immediately.

Article: Talks With Pakistan 'Waste of Time'

BK0905140895 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 5 May 95 p 12

[Article by Sankarshan Thakur: "Hot Air Over Cold Country"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Talk after talk after talk. What a waste of time. What the Japanese Zen master Issa said rather unkindly of the pleasing pastime of bathing (but perhaps in cold Japan it is not all that pleasing a pursuit, or would not have been been in Issa's pre-temperature control day at any rate) can be said, with due apologies to him, of India's and Pakistan's diplomatic initiatives on Kashmir. What is there to talk about between the two on Kashmir? What is there to resolve?

But quite surely, many would counter, there is a conflict in Kashmir to be resolved, is there not? And quite surely something needs to be done about it. Agreed, but through a dialogue? Between parties that are not even agreed on what the parameters of the dialogue should be? India wants to talk Kashmir to claim Pak-occupied Kashmir back; Pakistan wants to talk Kashmir to claim all of Kashmir - there is no meeting point. The India-Pakistan negotiating table does not have enough ground to stand; it forever teeters on the chasm that separates the neighbours. Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and President Farooq Leghari agreeing to resume talks on the Kashmir issue made the headlines last week. Quite frankly, it should not even have made a newsbrief. A writer of current history would perhaps find space for it in the footnotes but there too the queue of similar agreements is long; perhaps it would find space only as an ibid. If there is anything to be sorted out between India and Pakistan in Kashmir, it is not going to be sorted out by dialogue.

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If conflict is the essential truth of our lives and of most of our history, the essential myth about it is that dialogue can resolve conflict. That great and dangerous myth - great because of its sheer size and longevity and dangerous because like all duplicitous things, it wears the mesmeric cloak of virtue - has let us down a million times and a million times we have fallen. Look at the body of history and you will see how riddled it is with war. If dialogue could resolve conflict our history would be made up of conciliatory whispers, not the sound of gunfire.

Neville Chamberlain obviously was not quite wise to the inbuilt inefficiencies - and pitfalls - of using dialogue to resolve conflict when he landed at Heston after a meeting with Adolf Hitler in Munich and, waving a copy of the agreement he had made, exclaimed, "This is the second time in our history that there has come back from Germony to Downing Street peace with honour. I believe it is peace for our time." How sorry he looked when, just months later, Hitler invaded Poland and began World War II. What Chamberlain had secured in his talks with Hitler - and the Fuehrer had "jumped at the idea" for holding talks with the British prime minister - was not "peace for our time" but time for Hitler and his ambitions.

Successive peace negotiators - the ones who appear to think conflict is a game of pool they can finish leaning across tables - have looked so sorry so often in that terrible war that is still on in what was once Yugoslavia. Of course, they have all at various points in time been involved in negotiations and of course they have sworn by talks but how cleverly the fighting factions - mostly the Serbs - have used the cover of dialogue to regroup, rearm and launch into war again. The dialogue has been all but banished from Bosnia Herzegovina, the conflict rumbles ruinously on towards a resolutions which will be decided by the sheer balance of power and little else.

Successive governments in Sri Lanka have looked so sorry so often in the terrible war that is still raging on the northern tip of the island. And, of course, like all clever power-players, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] have often been involved in negotiations. But each time they have done so it has been when they are down and each time they have used the time purchased to consolidate their forces and arsenals and mount a fresh assault for the liberation of Tamil Eelam. Nobody would tell you that better than Chandrika Kumaratunga who is up against the LTTE's latest, and probably fiercest, offensive.

Returning home from the truncated stay at the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation summit in New Delhi via a route stretched beyond the LTTE's newly-acquired surface to air missiles, Kumaratunga must have spent a few moments regretting all the time whe gave V. Prabhakaran to recover from the battering he got around Jaffna last year. Why did she do it when she knew the LTTE had used negotiations as a cover to trick so many of her predecessors? Why did she fall for talks when whe knew the conflict between the Sri Lankan state and the LTTE is so basic there is nothing really to talk about?

The thing about conflict is that it turns on power and power turns on its own dynamics; dialogue is, at best, a cog in the workings of those dynamics, it is not power itself. Dialogue is not, and cannot be, essential to conflict resolustion; only power is, in whatever manner used. The twist and grip of power can dictate a situation of dialogue but dialogue itself, and on its own, cannot achieve much.

This is the essential thing New Delhi should remember in the context of Kashmir and Pakistan: dialogue will take it nowhere, only assertion of its power - essentially political and military power - will. If India wants to keep Kashmir and quite clearly it very much does, it cannot afford any dialogue with Pakistan on the issue.

Why should it? Kashmir, after all, is an integral part of India. Why should it be on the table for negotiations with another country? There is an elemental flaw in India agreeing for a dialogue with Pakistan on Kashmir; it is an admission of weakness, of being on the defensive.

If, on the other hand, India's position is that Kashmir is part of the agenda for dialogue because Pakistan has been interfering in the affairs of the state-militarily, materially and psychologically - there is again no case for a dialogue with Pakistan. What are we going to tell Islamabad? Please do not interfere? Have we not already told them so? And in much stronger terms than that? And has that had any effect? Has that stopped what we call Pakistan's low intesity war in the valley? So what are we going to talk to them about? And suppose India's position at the talks is that POK [Pakistan-occupied Kashmir] should be handed back, what is there to talk about? Is Pakistan likely to hand it across the table ?

Imagine high level delegations of India and Pakistan ranged - suspicious eyeball to suspicious eyeball, false smile to false smile - across a long table in a long, aloof room in New Delhi or Islamabad. Imagine them starting a dialogue on Kashmir. However they might choose to couch it in diplomatese and however many roundabout ways they might take to say what they have to, the two sides will, in substance say just this: Kashmir is ours, lay off. India will say it is an integral part of the country whose future is not negotiable; Pakistan will say it is

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psychologically (and historically) part of Pakistan and must be ceded over. (This sort of dialogue, of course, takes place with full prejudice to the people of Kashmir who, in their heart of hearts might be with neither India nor Pakistan, but that is another matter altogether).

So there the dialogue will end. Pakistan will go back to doing what it is, India will continue doing what it thinks fit. In all probablility, the end to such talks will be followed with a round of mutual expulsion of diplomatic staff, or if things are somewhat less tense, an exchange of bitter statements. Kashmir will remian Kashmir - India's according to India, disputed according to Pakistan and for both a conflict that no amount of talks seems to resolve. India, as long as it has the will and the power, will keep Kashmir physically [if not pshychologically] and Pakistan, as long as it has the will and the power, will keep interfering militarily and materially.

If dialogue was to be the effective agent for resolving this conflict, it had all the reason and all the chances, not least of them being that great mover of forces: money. Kashmir is a daily drain on both economies and both New Delhi and Islamabad could put to constructive use the money they use in Kashmir for destruction or containing destruction.

But then dialogue is not an effective agent for conflict resolution; power is, and power has its own ways of creating tilts and balances. Power may - and only power may - bring about a situation for a meaningful dialogue but Kashmir has a long way to get there. In the meantime, paradise must suffer its season in hell.

Editorial Rejects SAARC as Forum for Disputes

BK0905121995 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 6 May 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Now Economic Cooperation in SAARC"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan's President Farooq Ahmad Leghari must have known right at the beginning that his proposal regarding changing the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Charter would not be accepted. All the political disputes among India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh are essentially historical and emotional. If these disputes have not been settled so far it is only because these problems were bequeathed to this subcontinent, and a solution satisfactory to all parties is not possible unless an atmosphere of goodwill and mutual confidence is created among the countries in this region. Many countries of the West and the East have been trying to resolve the disputes between India according to their own assessments. Pakistan has repeatedly been raising Kashmir and other problems at a variety of international fora in its tirade against India, whereas India has always been of the view that the bilateral issues can be settled only through direct negotiation. If both parties cannot reach an agreement despite the influence of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Europe, and the United States, can these disputes be resolved through the medium of the small and politically and economically weak countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, and Sri Lanka? In fact, Pakistan had no hope that the inclusion of the bilateral problems in the SAARC conference would be able to find any solution to the problems. Its strategy was only to entangle the SAARC countries in the mutual problems in such a way as to get a forum to carry out its tirade against India. However, there were chances that such an effort would have deviated SAARC from its chosen path, and it would have become useless for other countries of South Asia. Sensing this danger, India and other counties refused to accept Leghari's proposal.

The representatives from Sri Lanka played a very important role in this regard. The Sri Lankan foreign minister said that the second decade of SAARC's existence would be devoted to business and investment, but this will be possible only when the member countries do not drag SAARC into the political problems. Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao also said that SAARC had so many economic issues to discuss there would be no time to engage in mediating the political disputes. In principle, all SAARC nations agreed to establish the South Asia Free Trade Area (SAFTA). According to Prime Minister Rao, even if it comes to be known as a 'poor countries' club, it is necessary, because only through mutual cooperation will weak and poor countries or people become powerful. However, this path to mutual trade cooperation is likely to prove quite hazardous for the member countries if Pakistan continues to give priority to political issues. So there is no solution but to adopt the middle course to serve the purpose. With Nepal, Bhutan, and Maldives India has such strong relations as to cause no serious impediment in developing closer economic cooperation. Sri Lanka is so eager to get economic cooperation that it has unilaterally declared that it will soon be issuing multipurpose visas for Indian traders. It might appear to be just a trivial initiative, but in creating an atmosphere of mutual cooperation and giving priority to it, it is a very important step. If five SAARC member countries agree to establish SAFTA, sooner or later Bangladesh will also find it serving its national interest. Hence this process started to foster closer economic cooperation should not be kept in abeyance only because of the insistence of one country that prefers political prejudices over its economic self-interest. It is possible that because of Pakistan's stubbornness such bilateral or even multilateral agreements may be kept

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out of SAARC's purview, but it is better than surrendering to one country's veto power.

Iran

More Reaction to U.S. 'Campaign' Against Country

Paper: U.S. Has 'Military Plan'

NC0905183595 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 May 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The U.S. Defense Department commanders, the Pentagon, held an important meeting last Saturday [30 April]. The meeting focused on discussing details of a military plan the United States is devising against Iran as part of Washington's campaign against that country. The campaign begins with an economic embargo against Iran on the pretext that Iran supports terrorism.

U.S. President Bill Clinton had called for an important military meeting of the Pentagon top command to discuss U.S. military preparations against Iran. The meeting focused on the U.S. military power in the Gulf, ways to urgently reinforce it, the status of the U.S. fleet in the Gulf, and potential military cooperation between the United States and a number of regional countries.

The meeting also focused on the pivotal Israeli military role in any U.S. action against Iran.

It has been decided to hold a second meeting to discuss the full details of the military plan and to see whether the plan can be used as a final option against Iran.

Washington has decided to postpone its military consultations with several European countries until a final plan has been endorsed. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, the U.S. National Security Council has called for changing the U.S. strategic view of its traditional allies in the Middle East. It also called for building bridges of understanding with other countries to enhance the U.S. strategic concept of the region. The U.S. National Security Council's move comes after Saudi Arabia and Egypt have taken certain stands that Washington regards as breaking away from U.S. control, especially after Saudi Arabia turned down Washington's help in arresting 'Imad Mughanniyah, member of the Lebanese Hizballah. He is accused of blowing up the Marines' headquarters in Beirut in 1983. Some 241 Americans were killed in that incident.

The U.S. National Security Council said Egypt was among the countries that refused to protect U.S. interests in the region when it did not respond to the U.S. call to convince Arab and African countries to support an indefinite extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

The U.S. National Security Council demanded that official, strongly worded warnings be addressed to Saudi Arabia and Egypt for defying U.S. policies. [passage omitted]

U.S. Said Waging 'Electronic War'

NC0905191695 Paris AFP in English 1616 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 9 (AFP) — US forces in the Gulf have harassed Iranian ships and planes and repeatedly jammed their electronic systems over the past few weeks, an Iranian weekly newspaper said Tuesday [9 May].

"The US fleet has launched a real electronic war on Iran's vessels and planes, disrupting their activity by jamming their electronic systems," said Payam-e Daneshju, published by radical students close to Iranian leader 'Ali Khamen'ei.

The weekly, quoting "informed sources" in Bushehr province bordering the Gulf, said the US electronic "harassment" was particularly affecting the regions of Sirri, Khark, Genaveh, Bandar- e Deylam and Lavan.

It also accused the US forces of arresting Iranian fishermen, without elaborating, and reported fishermen saying US navy planes continuously violated Iran's airspace and territorial waters.

"US helicopters fly sometimes 20 metres (66 feet) over fishing boats to monitor fishermen, which disrupts their work," the paper said.

Iran, which has repeatedly protested against US "harassment" to the United Nations Security Council, warned the United States in October last year against continuing its "provocations."

US navy vessels and warplanes have been monitoring the Gulf waters to enforce a UN air and arms embargo imposed on Iraq since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, which was liberated seven months later by a US-led coalition.

US President Bill Clinton announced an economic embargo on Iran on April 30, charging Tehran with supporting terrorism and trying to assemble nuclear weapons.

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UN Official on Ban, Terrorism, Ties

NC0905172395 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 May 95 p 4

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Morteza Moqtada'i, chief justice of the Supreme Court and head of the Iranian delegation to the UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, by AL-SHA'B correspondents 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn, Ahmad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, and Mu'tazz al-Hadidi in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-SHA'B] The United States is leading an international campaign to impose an economic embargo on Iran. How do you see the impact of this U.S. step on the future of the Islamic regime in Iran?

[Moqtada'i] The roots of the U.S. animosity against our people dates back to the seventies, when the Islamic Revolution of Iran led by Imam Khomeyni, may God have mercy on his soul, triumphed. Imam Khomeyni declared that the United States is the archenemy of the Islamic Revolution and Islam. Since then the United States has used all its resources against Iran. Perhaps you recall some incidents, such as the U.S. aggression to release the hostages, which was an utter failure, praise be to God, and many were killed in the attempt. Washington then took other steps. It severed its diplomatic relations with Iran. Our response to this step was, as Imam Khomeyni said, a great celebration. We were optimistic about this step that confirmed Iran's independence. This was followed by the nine-year war, which was imposed on us with U.S. support on all levels.

Regarding the U.S. embargo, we consider it a step on a road that the United States initiated. With the same force that we have overcome all the links of previous conspiracies and pressure, we will also, God willing, overcome this conspiracy. We are not afraid of this embargo and we are fully prepared to face it. Consequently, the embargo does not represent a problem to us. The United States has no authority over all the countries of the world. I do not believe that the world countries will respond to this U.S. decision. The proof of this is that many U.S. allies refused to participate in this embargo. We do not fear confrontation with the United States, and the time is ripe to destroy its vanity.

[AL-SHA'B] What is the significance of the timing of this embargo when the power in Iran is held by a team the West calls "the pragmatists?" And why did Washington resort to pressure and arm twisting even though it was possible to hold a dialogue with the Iranian regime?

[Moqtada'i] The Americans have hatched plots against Iran at all times and under all circumstances. Therefore, the timing of the embargo is linked to the steps taken to expedite the capitulation of the Arabs and Muslims. Since Iran is impeding the achievement of such steps, they wanted to create a crisis that would distract Iran's attention from confronting this capitulationist conspiracy.

[AL-SHA'B] Is this part of the efforts to exclude Iran from the new arrangements to set up a so-called new Middle Eastern market under Israel's leadership?

[Moqtada'i] Yes. One of the main reasons for U.S. animosity against us is our rejection of this plot. As for the so-called Middle Eastern Market, we will support every group that will serve the interests of Islam and the Muslims. We will not defend anything that is against the interests of Islam and the Muslims. We are a principal side in the Middle East but we will not take part in any meeting in which Israel participates.

[Al-SHA'B] It has been noted that the Congress on the Prevention of Crime is adopting a covert agenda that propagates a flexible concept of terrorism that serves the objectives of the West and its allies. What is your position on the context in which this issue was presented and which brands all social protests and resistance of Western arrogance as terrorism?

[Moqtada'i] There is no general definition of terrorism in the international arena. There are big discrepancies over the definition of crime and terrorism. We are facing many crimes in the world. We believe that coordination among the countries to confront the crimes is essential. We hope that the Congress will achieve a sort of coordination on this matter.

[AL-SHA'B] The United States is accusing Iran and some Arab countries of supporting terrorism. What do you think?

[Moqtada'i] We believe the accusation was made by countries that cannot stand Iran's independence and strength. We have rejected their domination, and that is why they are accusing us of terrorism. But we oppose and condemn terrorism any time, anywhere. The Iranian president condemned the recent bombing in Oklahoma, and we oppose all acts of kidnapping, killing, and bombing. But at the same time, we do not consider defending the homeland and resisting foreign occupation as acts of terrorism, but as a sacred and legitimate jihad. Anyone defending the legitimate rights of peoples is not a terrorist.

[AL-SHA'B] The head of the Zionist enemy's delegation [to the UN crime prevention congress] has called

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for establishing a regional center for combating terrorism. What is your position on this?

[Moqtada'i] To begin with, we believe that Israel is the world's biggest terrorist state. They do not really mean combating terrorism, but combating all forms of resistance to their aggression and expansion. We will not agree to be a party to anything in which Israel participates.

[Al-SHA'B] Your delegation was the only delegation that walked out of the congress when the representative of the Zionist enemy spoke. What is the significance of this?

[Moqtada'i] This action speaks for itself.

[AL-SHA'B] Iranian-Egyptian relations still vacillate between complete estrangement at cerain times and a resumption of contacts at others. What is the latest in these relations?

[Moqtada'i] We believe that Egypt has a great heritage and civilization. Egypt and Iran are the main foundations of the Middle East. We now have what we consider to be good relations. The stronger the relations, the better for the two peoples and for the entire Islamic nation. I do not think there is currently any deadlock in these relations; there are contacts, and I expect them to improve in the future.

[AL-SHA'B] Will you meet with any Egyptian officials?

[Moqtada'i] The purpose of this visit is to attend the crime prevention congress, not to discuss relations with Egypt. But we do not rule out such meetings in the future.

[AL-SHA'B] Your relations with Sudan has angered the Egyptian Government, which accuses you of supporting the Islamic regime in Khartoum, a regime with which the Egyptian Government is not happy. What about this?

[Moqtada'i] Our relations with Sudan are good and we have good exchanges. We recently received the Sudanese Consultative Council speaker. But these relations are not meant to harm Egypt. What is said and rumored about the essence of our relations with Sudan is untrue.

[AL-SHA'B] Egypt and Iran have quite similar positions on the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], and this has drawn some strong U.S. pressure. Is your position still the same?

[Moqtada'i] We did not, and we will not change our position. We think the pact must be universal and that all the states of the region should join it. There can be no double standard here. As for us, we were, are, and will continue to be committed to the NPT; but we repeat our insistence that the pact must be universal.

[AL-SHA'B] The Saudi interior minister has announced that his country will not allow the Iranian pilgrims to organize demonstrations or gatherings during the current hajj season. Do you insist on such gatherings? Do you expect a crisis with Saudi Arabia similar to when hundreds of Iranian pilgrims were killed in a demonstration in the past?

[Moqtada'i] His Eminence Imam Khomeyni used to say that the hajj is not an act of pure worship, but also a political act. He believed that the hajj is a major Islamic congress where Muslims exchange views and discuss their problems. He believed that disavowing polytheists during hajj is a necessary duty. In early Islam, this disavowal took a specific form, but now it is done differently because the polytheists are the enemies of Muslims. The Iranian pilgrims will implement this fatwa (the disavowal) as well as they can. In the past hajj seasons, the Saudi authorities applied pressure and did not allow our pilgrims to hold meetings. We hope they will be able to do so this year. If they can, then they will implement the fatwa and declare their disavowal. We hope the Saudi authorities will cooperate and allow the Iranian pilgrims to perform their duty.

[AL-SHA'B] Skirmishes have occurred recently on the Iranian-Iraqi borders; is the war still an open file?

[Moqtada'i] There is no war with Iraq now, but there is a crisis. We have Iraqi prisoners and they have Iranian prisoners. Their problem has yet to be settled for good. We hope that circumstances will allow the return home of our prisoners and theirs. Bilateral contacts are improving and relations continue.

[AL-SHA'B] Several attempts are being made to encroach on Iraq's sovereignty and territorial unity, the most recent being the Turkish military campaign against the Kurds in northern Iraq. What is your stance on this matter?

[Moqtada'i] We have repeatedly stressed the need to respect Iraq's sovereignty and to spare the Iraqi people any harm. We also have emphasized the need for the Turkish troops to depart from Iraq. We are against Iraq's partition.

[AL-SHA'B] The problem of the three Islands between Iran and the United Arab Emirates remains an obstacle to better relations between Tehran and the Gulf states. What is the latest regarding this issue?

[Moqtada'i] We have announced our complete readiness to have bilateral negotiations to find a radical solution to this problem. We are still prepared to resolve the matter

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bilaterally any time the other party makes a decision in this regard.

[AL-SHA'B] Western reports refer to a deterioration in economic conditions in Iran, a spread of demonstrations and strikes, and a rise in unemployment, thus casting doubts on the experiment with Islamic rule in the country. What is the truth about your internal situation?

[Moqtada'i] Regarding the economic situation, we are in the process of renovating the infrastructure and repairing what the war destroyed; this is our top priority. We have done a considerable amount in this regard, including building roads and communication networks, constructing dams to increase the arable land, and building sewage and water systems and providing electricity to remote villages, as well as providing them with schools. This has contributed positively to improving the people's lives. Suffice it to say that we import only two million tons of wheat, a very small amount compared to what we used to import. As for allegations about demonstrations and disturbances, this is a kind of a psychological warfare against Iran. We do not have political disturbances. There were some strikes over private demands, but they were small scale.

[AL-SHA'B] How did you handle them?

[Moqtada'i] We normally treat these things with prudence, try to meet the people's demands, and talk to them to solve their problems. Such things may be used for political purposes outside Iran. We have handled them with the minimum amount of problems.

[AL-SHA'B] What about unemployment in Iran, where 16 million are said to be unemployed?

[Moqtada'i] I believe that this figure is highly inaccurate. Although I do not remember the exact figure, I know that the unemployment rate in Iran is less than in similar countries. We have confronted this problem by focusing on increased productivity in general. We are trying to give real hope to all factions of the people for a better future, It is enough to say that we have built a 700-km-long [figure as published] rail network to serve the country's economy, something that required a huge investment but will help alleviate the unemployment problem. We also set up a number of major industrial centers that employ large numbers of people, not to mention the development of agricultural resources.

[AL-SHA'B] Iran's proximity to the so-called "drug triangle" in Asia augments the problem of narcotics in your country. How do you handle this problem?

[Moqtada'i] This is true. Narcotics smuggling is one of the most prominent social problems we face. Fifty-one percent of prisoners in Iran are narcotics traffickers; and the reason, as you mentioned, is our geographic location between the drug-producing and drug-consuming regions, which makes us a "transit" zone. For this reason, we combat narcotics forcefully and make no distinction in this regard between the Iranians or foreigners, based on our Islamic principles. We believe that human beings are especially important to Islamic values; therefore we do not differentiate in fighting this crime between Iranians and others.

Press, Officials Consider Relations With Russia

Radio Views Christopher's Remarks

NC0905174795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 8 May 95

[Station commentary: "Warren Christopher's Remarks"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has said that President Boris Yeltsin is not fully aware of the details of the Russian-Iranian nuclear power plant construction agreement. In a statement broadcast by BBS Television [as heard], Warren Christopher claimed that Boris Yeltsin was misled by his aides about Russia's nuclear energy cooperation with Iran.

The United States is sensitive about nuclear energy cooperation between Russia and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Over the past few months, U.S. officials have continuously urged their Russian counterparts to cancel the agreement with Iran. However, Moscow has strongly resisted this. Previously, the United States even threatened Moscow with suspension of economic aid.

Washington is worried that the agreement between Russia and the Islamic Republic of Iran on nuclear energy cooperation will create an opportunity for Russia to establish a dialogue with other strategically important Middle Eastern countries.

Obviously, the United States is inclined to use Russian-Iranian cooperation on nuclear energy for its hostile propaganda against Tehran. Arguing that Tehran will use the nuclear energy for military purposes, the United States claims that Iran poses a threat to world peace. Obviously, it wants to convince the countries of the region to sign security agreements with Washington so it can sell them more arms.

Warren Christopher seems convinced that his remarks about Boris Yeltsin being misled by his aides will encourage Yeltsin to change his mind. However, the opposite could also happen. His remarks may cause Yeltsin and his aides to decide that Warren Christopher is interfering in Russia's internal affairs, and this could cool U.S.-Russian relations.

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Ambassador Rejects 'Double-Standards'

LD0905213495 Tehran IRNA in English 2051 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA — Russia cannot [word indistinct] a policy of double-standards towards Iran just because Tehran-Washington relations are strained, Russian Ambassador, Sergey M. Tretyakov said here Monday [8 May].

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a ceremony here on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of ending the World War II, Tretyakov said Russia is an independent country which can, by itself, decide on the type and the extent of its cooperation with other countries.

The Russian ambassador said it is natural to see different reflection of Russia's decision in different countries, but, he said, it is improbable for Moscow to take into consideration others' approval or disapproval of its decisions.

Russia regards Tehran-Moscow nuclear cooperation as peaceful, Tretyakov said. Iran is a signatory to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and its nuclear activities have been monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors, he added.

'Important' Ties To Continue

LD0905191495 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA — Maintaining neighborly relations with Iran is important for Russia, English language daily, 'TEHRAN TIMES' wrote Tuesday commenting on the U.S.-Russia leaders summit underway in Moscow.

In the summit, the U.S. President, Bill Clinton, would use all his persuasion power to convince the Russian side to abandon its planned nuclear cooperation with Iran, the paper said in its editorial. Iran, as a signatory to the Non-Proliferation treaty (NPT) has repeatedly declared that it would use the Russian-made light-weight reactors in Bushehr power plant south of Iran for peaceful purposes.

As an example for the Russian refusal to bow to Washinton's demand on cancelling its nuclear contract with Iran, the daily referred to an article recently published in NEW YORK TIMES saying Russia resented being subjected to such humiliation.

"The Russian Foreign Ministry has indicated again and again that as the trade relations between Russia and Iran has a long history, all kinds of trade and cooperation between Tehran and Moscow will assuredly continue," TEHRAN TIMES said.

Iran and Russia are Caspian Sea littoral states and hence are considered as neighbors, the daily said maintaining neighborly relations with Iran is important to Russia, it added.

"Russia has consistently tried to adopt independent stands in its relations with other countries," TEHRAN TIMES said, referring as a proof to the disagreement between Russia and Iran on lifting the embargo against Iraq.

"... Moscow cannot afford to cancel out a lucrative deal such as the one with Iran because all present and future clients of Russia will begin to wonder whether Russia really honors its words," the daily said.

Now the question is not whether Russia wants to keep its words to Iran, per se, but whether Russia will keep its promise to any country, it concluded.

Commentaries Reflect on Role of Press in Society

Berated for Criticizing Government

NC0505121695 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 25 Apr 95 pp 1, 12

[Unattributed commentary: "If You Want To Become Well Known, Go Against the Norm"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Criticism and discussion are major responsibilities of the press. Those who consider the intellectual maturity of the good and sincere people of Islamic Iran to be among their major duties regard sympathetic and compassionate criticism as a necessity.

Informing society, elevating the people's education and giving them the capability to analyze issues, politicizing the people, and preserving national unity are four major duties each newspaper should bear in mind when expressing its views.

Raising a fuss, causing commotions, secretiveness, infringing the law, disrespect, demagoguery, and so on may be able to solve the political isolation of one group or another or rectify problems caused by the low circulation of a newspaper, but they cannot bring peace to a journalist's conscience and are not among the vital social responsibilities of any journalist.

We have often heard the Arabic adage that "if you want to become well known, go against the norm"!

For some time now some newspapers have been devoting their headlines to criticism of the president and of some government officials.

Some newspapers that used to be so-called sports and movie magazines have recently decided to adopt a political stand and to resort to political criticism.

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As was stated above, sympathetic and constructive criticism is extremely good and beneficial; and this is a duty of each and every newspaper. But the tone of the comments and the headlines of some newspapers indicate the emergence of a new strategy which should be carefully assessed and analyzed.

There are not many such publications. But it is important to consider the lines that they follow. Without naming any publication or group, we would like to point out that there is less than a year until the elections for the fifth Majles.

Apparently, some of these publications say at their meetings that "if we want to get into the Majles in the next election, one sure way is through opposition to the government and the president."

They say that the people cannot see any close linkage between the immense projects that are being implemented and their own living conditions. They say that the people pay attention to their own purchasing power, and when they see how low it is they get angry and do not listen to anyone.

They also say that the people cannot see what benefits these immense investments can have for themselves and the country. Therefore, in order to have a say in the elections, they feel they should adopt the tactic of "becoming famous by going against the norm." The people will thus know them well and will remember them when marking their ballots!

Thus, some of them have started rumors. Some have magnified certain incidents and downplayed the government's achievements. And this process continues.

At any rate, this is the conclusion that some of these people have reached, and we can read this between the lines of some articles in their publications.

But according to the leaders of these groups, their supporters and members are creating problems because they ask:

1. How did we reach this conclusion, and do the social realities justify such assessments?!

2. If we look at the situation from this angle, will we not be insulting our alert people, who are safeguarding the biggest divine revolution?!

3. Is our view of the situation not tantamount to falling in line with the enemy mass media's efforts to destroy the system?!

4. Who says one of the ways to find our way into the Fifth Majles is through demagogic attacks on the government and the president? Should we question our achievements and trample on our values for the sake of power?!

5. Who fabricated such issues anyway?! Where did they come from? What is their past? How competent are they?! What are their living conditions like?!

6. And... [ellipsis as published]

These and dozens of other questions that have been raised remain unanswered.

This is why the true supporters of such groups are decreasing. Nevertheless, anyone familiar with the revolution and its achievements should not rally around these groups thinking that they are on the right path.

We hold that it is proper to criticize the activities of officials, but criticism should be logical and ethical and should respect the obvious interests of the system and the nation. But if you take the wrong path, the people are alert enough to tell friend from foe.

The 16 years of the Revolution prove that the people have always succeeded in identifying the friends of the Revolution and in rejecting strangers.

Our advice to these publications is that they also bear in mind another Arabic saying: "The way to maturity is to conquer personal bias."

If you resist your personal prejudices, you will mature! Maturity can be achieved by fighting your prejudices. Therefore, anyone who writes should let his conscience and his God be his guide. He should examine whether he is using his pen to help the people to mature and to defend the values of the system or, God forbid, to serve his own personal ends by seeking to come to power.

Paper on 'Vital' Role of Press

NC0405120695 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES (International Weekly) in English 27 Apr 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Freedom of the Press is Indispensable"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mostafa Mirsalim stressed the importance of the press and the mass media in his statement, "They have the duty to inform the people of the truth and expose realities."

To present the truth, and nothing but the truth, to a nation is a duty as vital as defending it and those who sweep dirt under a carpet pave the way for false rumors and misinformation.

The press in Iran has no clouds of restriction or censorship hovering above it, but journalists, in good faith or due to ignorance, sometimes shun from printing certain types of news. This timidity often backfires as

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the media becomes more and more advanced and facts concerning people and nations are exposed faster.

The constitution of the Islamic Republic not only bars censorship but also provides punishment for violators. The country and its system are open books for everyone to read.

In an Islamic system officials are, first and foremost, servants of the Almighty God. For a true Muslim, material blessings are secondary in any service.

The Iranian nation is now in a very delicate situation. The Islamic Revolution has made history by destroying the 2,500-year-old monarchy. In pursuit of self-reliance, it has also succeeded in eradicating the exploitative influence of the big powers.

"Don't exploit and don't be exploited," is the philosophy behind the Islamic system in Iran.

But its practical application has quite naturally drawn enemies for the country, both within and without. These enemies can strike at any time, calling for vigilance from each and every Iranian.

God forbid that the media in Iran should allow itself to be used by the enemies of the nation. Muzzling of the truth can be worse than spreading false information.

The best example that may be cited in the Now Ruz [Iranian new year] holidays when there were no newspapers for 14 days. All sorts of rumors started to mushroom and Tehran became a center of gossip. When people realized that not even a single rumor was correct, the damage had already been inflicted.

The Iranian people have sacrificed so much to attain what they now enjoy and it is their utmost desire to keep their revolution intact. This call for a national media which is indispensably committed to portraying the truth at all times. Otherwise, the people will turn to foreign broadcasts to sort out facts.

Mirsalim, a sincere and honest official, emphasized 'free and easy access to authorities and criticism against them.'

If easy access to officials and criticism against them (when necessary) are urged as guiding principles, then there should be no room for any sort of corruption to thrive.

***Report of Effects on Economy of Selling Stocks**

95LA0162C Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 22 Feb 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] The record on stock purchases in the last few years shows that beginning in the year 1369 [21 March 1990] public demand for purchasing shares of producing companies increased day by day and that prices increased due to the imbalance between supply and demand. This trend continued until the year 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992], and there was a striking increase for various reasons in the volume of trade. Among the most important reasons for the increase in the volume of trade in recent years were the large-scale marketing of shares by public government organizations, the addition of many more companies to the ones marketing shares, the continued tendency by the banking network to market shares throughout the country, and also the active involvement of workers in the buying of shares at guaranteed prices based on government legislation.

The technical experts believe that in the year 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] the nation's capital market was affected by the banking system's activities. Yet the shares marketed amounted to 15 percent of the nation's total capital formation in the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990]. In the year 1370, as the shares marketed by the major stock-selling organizations increased, the stock market's role in capital formation increased, reaching 5.4 percent [as published]. The stagnation in the year 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] and the reduced marketing of shares by government organizations caused this trend to go down again, so that despite the increase in GNP, the stock market's share of capital formation declined and was held at 1.9 percent.

According to the experts, one of the stock market's main goals is to attract unused savings and direct them into producing units and into the creation of resources and means for public participation in industrial development and sharing in factory profits. In reality, when someone buys a company's shares, he is considered a stockholder of that company, and he will have rights in that company, the most important of which is the right to vote for members of the board of directors, for the purpose of managing the company. Other rights include drawing profits on the shares, obtaining the annual benefits, and the right to buy new shares when the shares increase.

Moreover, usually the purchase of shares acts as a counter-inflationary measure by preserving the value of capital. That is, the more the value of money declines, the more the value of shares increases. These experts add: In reality the idea of transferring the shares of government companies is a new phenomenon. Although it has been going on for several years in other countries, in our country for various reasons it does not have an adequate track record, so that the public is essentially unfamiliar with this issue and to some extent estranged from it.

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Therefore, to alleviate this basic deficiency, it is necessary to familiarize the public with the culture of investing in production affairs by publishing articles, conducting training sessions, and doing promotional programs in the media. Unfortunately sufficient attention has not been given to this basic task in the four years of the cycle of transferring the shares of government companies. Based on existing statistics, sufficient use has not been made of the financial capabilities in most of the provinces. To solve this problem a budget, tools, and the necessary organizations must be designated and their duties must be specified, requiring them to compile and implement educational and training policies.

Due to the existing inflationary conditions in society, whose natural reflection is a reduction in per-capita savings, it is necessary for the banking system to take measures to provide low-cost credit to those wishing to buy shares, just as it provides various means to the public to use to buy housing and durable goods. This will have a positive effect on the financial interest of production activities and will reduce the inflationary pressures on surplus financial resources.

The natural tendencies in the world's various stock markets shows that economic crisis and prosperity have a remarkable effect on the volume of stock transactions, so that during economic crisis and stagnation the volume of stock trading decreases, and, to the contrary, the amount of investment in bonds, trading in investment participation notes and papers convertible to shares increases.

The experts say it this way: At a time when the nation's capital market is on the threshold of unprecedented offerings of shares of government and public sector units, the necessary tools must be provided to create the needed financial resources and to direct them into the stock market. For this purpose it is recommended that a large investment company with initial capital of 500 billion rials [R] be formed, part (about 30 percent) of whose preliminary capital will be provided by the banking system, investment companies, insurance companies, and retirement funds, and the rest underwritten by public and private sector offerings.

According to existing reports, in the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] Iran's economy was able to maintain its economic growth. Of course factors beyond our borders such as reduced foreign exchange revenues from oil exports and suspended repayments of foreign debt affected the growth of the nation's productivity. Despite this however, increased domestic production and the continuation of the investments made in previous years paved the way for continued growth. In the current situation in the world's economy this is desirable, and most foreign economic experts consider Iran's economic growth in these current years, despite the foreign problems, as being one of the government's major achievements.

Unified Foreign Exchange Rate's Effect On Shares

The effects of unifying the foreign exchange rate on economic activities are assessed as follows: Unifying the foreign exchange rate, which led to some problems for the producing foundations, was able to have negative effects at the beginning of the year [21 March 1994]. With the emergence of problems for the companies accepted on the stock market, on the one hand the selling of shares by the major share-selling organizations decreased, and on the other hand due to the effects of the problems with procuring currency in circulation for the companies by the banking system, the prices of shares, which reflect current and future conditions in the producing foundations, tended to decrease. Consequently the share price indicator in Aban 1372 [23 October-21 November 1993] decreased 15 percent compared to the first of the year, and the volume of trade for the first six months of the year also decreased compared to the same period the previous year.

After the preliminary doubts arising from the policies of economic conversion were overcome, in the last three months of the year [22 November 1993-20 March 1994] share prices for companies and also the volume of trade and total sales of shares increased, so that the share price indicator grew about 400 units by the end of the year, and the volume of trade increased as well due to increased share offerings by the major stock-selling organizations.

One of the issues the economic experts think about in relation to shares is the relationship between total current value of shares and GDP. An analysis of the current value of the shares on various stock markets compared to their GDP shows that there is a direct relationship between the total value of shares and GDP. As long as GDP is increasing, the total value of shares also increases, and on the contrary, likewise based on existing statistics, generally the countries with lower inflation rates have been able to have growth in the stock price indicator. These two variables are indirectly linked, which is to say that increased inflation will cause a drop in the share price indicator, and vice-versa.

The transfer of factories and companies belonging to the government, which effectively began at the beginning of the First Five-Year Economic, Social and Cultural Development Plan, also continued in the year 1372, along with fluctuations in the offerings of company shares by government and public organizations, which

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were under the effects of the two divergent halves in terms of the conditions prevailing in the stock market.

The widespread stagnation that prevailed in the stock market after the beginning of the year 1371 [21 March 1992] also continued in the year 1372, and at the same time share prices were adjusted for the purpose of restoring conditions to normal in the market and reestablishing the relationship between share prices and company activities. The outcome of this became apparent in the second half of the year [23 September 1993-20 March 1994], in such a way that with logical prices, some public investment went into the purchase of shares, and this persuaded government and public organizations to increase offerings of the shares under their control.

During this year a total of 53.7 million shares valued at R291.4 billion was offered to the public and the private sectors by government and public organizations, and this figure represents an increase of 108.1 percent compared to the previous year.

If the performance of public organizations offering shares during the various years of the First Five-Year Plan is analyzed, although during the year 1372 the offerings of shares of companies owned by government organizations increased compared to the previous year, they were fewer than the maximum figure that has come to hand for the year 1370.

One must not forget that the increased share offerings by government and public organizations and the increased volume of trading on the stock market in the year 1372 took place in general under circumstances where Iran's economy was undergoing profound change with the implementation of new economic programs such as the unification of the foreign exchange rate, changes in import and export regulations, changes in customs levies, and other things. Such an achievement is therefore quite significant during a time of economic adjustment.

The makeup of the buyers of shares is very important from the point of view of the cycle of privatization, or in other words the transfer of government sector property to the public and the private sectors. This is because the high percentage of shares bought by the private sector is seen as a measure of the government's policy of privatization. On this basis, although the banking system's role and responsibility with regard to the buying of shares on the stock market seems vague to some extent, because on the one hand the role of the banks must be reduced based on the government's specific goals and strategies of privatization, and on the other hand, with a crisis due to the lack of instruments of support, the banks must act as an instrument to face the crisis. In any case however, efforts are being made so that the private sector will buy the shares being offered on the stock market.

Based on the tables and graphs, of all the shares bought in the year 1372, the private sector bought 65 percent, the public sector bought 17 percent and the banks bought 18 percent. The experts believe that when share prices became logical in the year 1372 and with general public acceptance, especially in the second half of the year, on the one hand more agency companies and specialist institutions will be created, and on the other hand it is expected that the role of the private sector in the purchase of shares will increase.

Pakistan

Statement Condemns Israeli Policies in Jerusalem

BK0805152595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan has called upon Israel not to confiscate Palestinian land for setting up of a new Jewish settlement in al-Qods al-Sharif [Jerusalem]. A statement issued by the Foreign Office in Islamabad today said Pakistan Government also urges the United States and the Russian Federation, the coguarantor of the Declaration of Principles accord, as well as the international community to take cognizance of the Israeli policies. It said the step of the Israeli authorities might lead to the collapse of the peace process and pose a threat to regional peace and security. The statement says that the Israeli action is in contravention of the provisions of international law and relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council. It also says that the Israeli measures relating to settlements and accession of Palestinian land, closure of the occupied territories and excavation in al-Qods and al-Sharif are in utter disregard of international norms and justice.

Further on Arrest of Suspected Ramzi Associate

BK1005090295 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 10 May 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Quetta — Abu Safian, a Pakistani national who was arrested from Quetta last week for his alleged connections with the gang of Ramzi Ahmad Yusuf, a principal accused in World Trade Centre (WTC) bombing in New York, was an employee of the UAE's Red Crescent mission in Quetta.

The sources said the FIA's [Federal Investigation Agency] special team, which arrived here from Islamabad to arrest him, called Abu Safian out of his office in Satellite Town and arrested him. The FIA is learnt to have avoided a raid on the office of the UAE Red Crescent which is headed by a Saudi national who was away on leave.

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The details about the accused's relations with Ramzi could not be ascertained. There was no police case against him nor the police was informed about his arrest, the sources said. Abu Safian, who was arrested in Quetta on Friday [5 May] last, was taken to Islamabad in a special plane for further investigations.

An official, who was associated with his arrest remarked that he might be released within a few days as so far there was no concrete evidence against him showing his connections with the Ramzi's terrorist gang. One Haji Akhtar Muhammad, who was arrested by the FBI and FIA from Quetta a few weeks ago was also released by them as they could not establish anything against him.

Bhutto Views Regional Issues, Iranian Sanctions

BK1005095395 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 10 May 95 p 1

[Report by Zaffarullah Khan — punctuation as published]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that the option to sue the American government and the manufacturers of F-16s in court was available, had the political initiative in this regard failed.

In an interview with the Frontier Post's panel comprising, Muzaffar Shah Afridi (editor), Abbas Rashid (associate editor) and Zaffarullah Khan (bureau chief), the Prime Minister deliberated upon a number of domestic political and economic issues along with the foreign affairs related concerns. Describing her recent visit to United States as the victory of principles she said: "Now the Pakistanis can hold their heads high as country's stand on various issues of vital significance has been "vindicated".

Putting her point of view about the proposed non-party local bodies polls on record, Benazir Bhutto said: "We are committed to party-based polls". However she said during the first phase of local bodies polls in Punjab we have obliged the vision of our coalition partner, Pakistan Muslim League [PML], and hope that it (PML) will reciprocate to our vision at the second phase".

Taking stock of country's economic constrains, premier Bhutto said: "We had to tackle high borrowings by the province governments at commercial rates, increase the wages after the gap of three years and we failed to implement the General Sales Tax (GST)".

She also rejected the proposition to involve the business community in the budget formation mechanism, by saying: "Budgets are made by the government and not by interest groups". Bhutto also rebuffed the notion that there was a gap between the business community and her government.

Regarding Pakistan's role in the region, she maintained that better relations with one state should not be at the expense of another friend. Recalling the days of her father, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto when he was country's Foreign Minister, Benazir Bhutto said: "We served as bridge between China and United States at a time when they were not even of talking terms".

Reiterating her regrets over American trade sanctions against Iran, prime minister hinted that Pakistan was willing to serve as a bridge for all its friends.

Replying to a question about the situation in Afghanistan, Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto voiced her resentment over different factions which tried to use Pakistan for their own respective interests and felt let down when Pakistan didn't respond to it. She attributed the present Afghan quagmire to the absence of leadership of national stature in Afghanistan. "The sufferings of ordinary Afghans [word indistinct] us", she said and talked about the economic assistance which Pakistan were offering in opening of utility stores at banks in that country.

Maintaining the posture of non-interference, Bhutto said, "we wish peace to return to Afghanistan and the Afghans must talk about Pakistan as a real friend". Responding to a query about the possible shifting of Pakistani embassy from Jalalabad to Kabul, she said: "When its safety will be guaranteed, it will be done".

Asked as to when she will fulfill her promise of giving the right of adult franchise in Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), Prime Minister, Bhutto said: "We are committed to that, but are looking for a viable agreement with the MNAs [Members of National Assembly] from that area. About the development initiative in FATA, she said: "I have recently written to the governor of NWFP [North West Frontier Province] to check lapses in on-going projects".

To another question about Kalabagh Dam, the Prime Minister said though the question of water resources was a provincial subject, however, both General Zia and Nawaz Sharif used the issue for their own purposes. "It is due to that policy that now our farms and agriculture sector are suffering. "We have modified the proposed Kalabagh dam project in the shape of Indus dam and it has tremendous potential for Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan and NWFP. We are also looking to employ modern computerised technology to satisfy the objects of various provinces, but still we can't impose it on all federating units". Benazir Bhutto confided that her government had already approved the feasibility of

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Bhasha dam and would continue its dialogue with the provinces to hammer out a consensus.

Reacting to a question about legislation through Ordinances, Bhutto termed them very much within the ambit of constitution. "It is the majority which dictates in parliament and not mere rulings by the speaker or-chairman of Senate". She responded to the situation created after rule 90. Terming the said rule ultra vires of the Constitution, she said: "If the Opposition finds something irking it must come to the table. Our doors have always been open".

She outlined her quest to restore women seats; along with an overall increase in the seats in representative democratic institutions as a bargain, "Let us start building confidence step-by-step", said Benazir Bhutto while exhorting that the opposition must have stakes in the system.

Referring to Karachi situation and the administrative measures taken in this regard, Benazir Bhutto termed the creation of separate Lyari Development Authority as a necessary step for the convenience of the residents of Lyari. Bhutto also disclosed that the idea of making Malir a full-fledged district was conceived during the days of Jam Sadiq MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] coalition and "we have just implemented it". Prime Minister Bhutto also pleaded the idea to create more districts out of present five districts of Karachi, keeping in view its huge population.

Prime minister also criticised the Opposition for spreading a rumour after rumour in its series of disinformation. "Their charges are baseless and false", she said while pin-pointing opposition's propaganda on country's nuke policy, Chakwal's seismic facility and Gawadar. Saying that her government was on its way to bring revolution in health, education and other social sectors, Benazir Bhutto asserted, "I have promised good clean governance and that promise will never ever be compromised".

Daily Regards Conflicting Ties With U.S., Iran

BK1005073895 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 10 May 95 p 10

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iran has remained one of Pakistan's closest friends in the region. But of late some doubt has been cast on the strength of the relationship between the two as a result, among other things, of Pakistan's relatively closer ties with the United States on the one hand and the increasing tension between Iran and the US on the other. It also suits various quarters on the basis of the given state of affairs to convey the impression that in its supposed eagerness to do the US bidding, Pakistan would be willing to sacrifice its special relationship with Iran or even become in some way a part of broader US-led international effort against that country. Such an impression must be convincingly dispelled. In this context it is a positive move that Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has, reportedly, in a telephonic conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has regretted the position taken by the US president against Iran and reiterated the offer of all possible cooperation with the government and the people of Iran. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had earlier declared in a similar vein that the US position vis-a-vis Iran was regrettable. Pakistan, in any case, is not alone in taking such a position. Russia and China and even the European countries have questioned the US claim that Iran is engaged in a covert programme for manufacturing nuclear weapons without offering any evidence for its loud assertions. Of course, the US does not do much for itself in terms of credibility when at the same time it remains completely silent about the massive nuclear weapons arsenal possessed by Israel and adopts a lukewarm approach to India's nuclear weapons programme.

Be all that as it may Pakistan should continue to make it clear to all concerned that its improved relationship with the United States is not at the expense of longstanding ties with friends the region. There is no doubt that Pakistan cangain from a better relationship with the US which, despite its decline, remains a powerful and influential factor in the context of international politics as well as the global economy. But it does not imply that in the process Pakistan should be willing to isolate itself in the region. Even within the region the warmer relations between India on the one hand and Iran and china on the other should not mean that this is at the expense of the latter's ties with Pakistan. Nevertheless, the situation is a complex one and Pakistan will require some adept diplomacy in ensuring that the still important Pak-US relationship does not lead to the diluting of the close ties in the region with friends like Iran and China which are equally important, if not more so.

Editorial Voices Concern Over Military, India

BK0605135695 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 5 May 95 P 10

[Editorial: "Mirza Aslam Beg's Revelations, Pakistan's Defense, and the Movement of Indian Troops"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Retired General Mirza Aslam Beg, the chief of the Awami Qiyadat Party and former commander in chief of Pakistan army, has said that the government has stopped making M-11 missiles with Chinese assistance and annulled 11 agreements with

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Iran for cooperation in the field of defense production in the wake of pressures from the United States. Addressing a news conference in Karachi on Wednesday [3 May], Mirza Aslam Beg said that Pakistan had acquired technology from China to manufacture M-11 missiles, which can be used to counter India's Prithvi missiles. The technology for building tanks was also acquired from China. Gen. Beg added that the 11 agreements for cooperation with Iran in the field of defense production were signed during his stewardship of the Pakistani Army. The agreements prompted the United States to give the impression that he had decided to pass on the nuclear secret to Iran, but there was not an iota of truth in Washington's allegation.

If the revelations made by the former chief of army staff that the government has halted the development of M-11 missiles and the Pakistani indigenous missile series — Hatf— are true, then it cannot but be termed as a serious situation in the sphere of Pakistan's defense. If the government has also decided to rescind the 11 agreements with Iran for cooperation in defense production, then it proves beyond a doubt that Pakistan has come under intense U.S. pressure concerning its defense and foreign affairs and that the Benazir government will go to any extent and do anything possible to curry favor with the United States.

The United States has imposed trade sanctions against Iran. Even though the Government of Pakistan has refused to become a U.S. ally against Iran and informed the Iranian Government that Pakistan will not support any U.S. action to enforce economic sanctions against Iran or to declare Iran a terrorist state, the "revelations" made by Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg have caused serious concern, unease, and anxiety among the patriotic circles of the country.

Presently, a very dangerous situation prevails on Pakistan's borders. India has deployed special units of its Prithvi missiles along Pakistani borders and has started to increase the number of its troops in occupied Kashmir from the current 625,000 to 725,000 and has ordered two mountain brigades to reach the occupied territory within two weeks. Reports received on Wednesday spoke of massive Indian troop movement along Pakistan's Sindh border, while Indian planes have also been seen flying along the border. The Indian Army has started massive military exercises along its Rajasthan State's border with Rahimyar Khan District of Punjab and has moved a brigade skilled in desert warfare to that region. Military helicopters have also been seen flying in the region. All these factors indicate that India is increasing pressure on Pakistan to achieve its main objective of staging an election farce in occupied Kashmir. The military pressure on the Sindh border may also be intended to divert Pakistan's attention from Kashmir, so that Islamabad may not oppose Indian actions in the held territory.

The Pakistani president's meeting with the Indian prime minister in New Delhi also failed to generate any hopes of lessening tension between the two countries. President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari took up the issue of India's missile development with Narasimha Rao, but the Indian prime minister failed to give any answer. Instead, Narasimha Rao said that the level of tension that exists between India and Pakistan now has never been seen before. The Indian prime minister's remarks reflect the fact that tension does exist on borders between the two countries and that India is escalating this tension by conducting troop movements, which is a cause of great concern.

In view of this grave situation, more attention needs to be paid to Pakistan's defense, but the revelations made at the former army chief's news conference reflect Pakistani government's indifference and its attempt to ignore the situation. Earlier, too, while commenting on the deployment of Indian Prithvi missiles along Pakistani borders, we have suggested that Pakistan pay attention to its missile program and expedite work on the development and production of the Hatf-2 missile system to counter the threat posed by the Indian Prithvi missile. We have full confidence in the valiant armed forces of Pakistan, and we have expressed the belief on more than one occasion that the defenders of Pakistan's frontiers can give a fitting reply to every enemy's aggression by the grace of God and with the full support of the nation, but, according to the injunctions of the holy Koran, "we must also keep our horses ready."

We would like to urge the Government of Pakistan to take note of Mirza Aslam Beg's statement, and the prime minister should explain the situation to the people in light of his disclosures. If Mirza Aslam Beg's revelations are true, then it is a very serious situation at which we cannot but express our concern. We will again urge the government to pay more attention to defense in view of India's military preparations, to thwart the enemy's designs.

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Daily Urges Military Buildup To Counter India

BK0905112595 Lahore JANG in Urdu 9 May 95 p 10

[Editorial: "The Indian Missile Program and Imperatives of National Defense"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was agreed during the last meeting between President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto that the country's defense would be bolstered. A meeting of the Defense Production Board was held at the same time, which extensively reviewed the implications to Pakistan's security in view of India's missile program and decided to expand the range of Hatf and Anza missiles and accelerate the production of Khalid tanks to effectively deal with the ever-increasing Indian military buildup and its aggressive designs. Commenting on India's production of destructive Prithvi and Agni missiles and its current attempt to equip them with nuclear warheads to enhance its destructive force, experts say that Prithvi is meant for no other country than Pakistan, and Agni has been manufactured to target Pakistan's friend and neighbor. Even President Leghari has explicitly expressed this apprehension.

Given the situation, Pakistan is left with no other alternative but to make every possible preparation to defend its frontiers as directed by the holy Koran. A former chief of Pakistan Army [General Aslam Beg] has said in an interview that if the production of Hatf and Anza missiles is continued, and efforts are made to improve them, then they will turn out to be a very effective match to Indian Prithvi and Agni missiles. The enemy will not dare cast an evil eye on Pakistan if it possesses such missiles. Viewed in this backdrop, the Defense Production Board's above-mentioned decision is reflective of national aspirations and desires and needs to be pursued with full force and speed, because the most effective means to counter the aggression is to possess the best defense capability.

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